

Learning and attention issues, though, complicate this development. Children with LD or ADHD nearly always have difficulty with one or more executive skills, which can lead to obstacles in learning and behavior.

This checklist will help you recognize executive function difficulties in your child.

This list does not diagnose or pinpoint a specific problem, but it can be helpful as a way to capture your observations and concerns and start a conversation with your child's school personnel or other professionals.



On the next page, we'll look at the overarching executive function categories under which these behaviors fall. This may help you better organize your observations.

IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS,

MY CHILD...

- Has difficulty paying attention
- Is easily distracted
- Requires many reminders to stay on task
- Finds it difficult to set goals
- Seems to struggle with making decisions
- Has trouble identifying where to start on assignments
- Focuses on either details or the big picture at the expense of the other
- Has difficulty getting started on tasks, often seems to procrastinate
- Struggles to comprehend how much time a project will take to complete
- Takes longer than peers to complete homework and other tasks
- Needs numerous prompts from adults to stay on task
- Loses track of time or assignment due dates
- Forgets to turn in completed work
- Struggles with keeping track of needed materials; often leaves materials at home or school
- Finds checking his/her work very difficult (and may not do it at all)
- Has trouble following multiple-step directions
- Forgets what he/she is saying or doing in the middle of a task
- Forgets the details of a text while reading or soon after finishing
- Gets frustrated with changes in schedule or usual routines
- Has difficulty shifting from one activity to another (especially when the rules/task demands change)
- Struggles with shifting between information that is literal vs. figurative, past vs. present, etc.
- Gets stuck on parts of tasks and can't move forward
- Seems to have difficulty controlling impulses—will say or do things without thinking about them first
- Is easily frustrated
- Often talks out of turn and/or interrupts others' conversations