ADHD in Preschool: What Parents Should Look For

- Dislikes or avoids activities that require paying attention for more than a minute or two
- Often loses interest and starts doing something else after engaging in an activity for only a few seconds
- Talks a lot more and makes much more noise than other children the same age
- Has trouble with motor skills like hopping on one foot by age 4
- Nearly always restless—“must” get up after being seated for only a few minutes
- Gets into dangerous situations because of fearlessness
- Warms up too quickly with strangers
- Frequently fights with playmates; has been expelled from preschool or daycare for aggression
- Often injured (e.g., stitches) because of moving too fast or running when not supposed to be doing so

While the above behaviors do not mean a preschooler has ADHD, they are early signs that screening for ADHD is appropriate. Talk with your healthcare provider if your child displays two or more of these behaviors.

Learn more at Preschoolers and ADHD CHADD.ORG


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