

Learning: **CAST**

Child ADHD Screening Tool

What is it?

CAST is a guide to aid teachers in identifying specific children who may be struggling in the classroom and/or socially with other children. It is not a definitive diagnostic tool but the first stage in determining the level of need of specific students who may be having difficulties due to inattention, hyperactivity and/or impulsivity, which are the core symptoms of ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).

Who is it by?

It has been developed by Fintan O'Regan, SEN (Special Educational Needs) Advisor for Surrey, Dr Somnath Banerjee, Associate Specialist in Community Paediatrics and a multi-disciplinary group of specialists working in the area of ADHD, including an Educational Psychologist, a SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), an ADHD Specialist Nurse, and a Mental Health Practitioner. The project was initiated and funded by Takeda Pharmaceuticals as part of an educational, awareness programme in Primary schools on ADHD. The characteristics of ADHD included in CAST highlight a number of issues that certain children may have in school. They have been adapted from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, published by the American Psychiatric Association, the World Health Organisation International Classification of Diseases (ICD 10) and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines on ADHD.

How does it work?

As a teacher you may wish to complete this questionnaire if you have identified a child in your class who is struggling in the classroom or with his/her peers or for whom your normal teaching strategies do not appear to be working.

What happens next?

If a child scores a high level of A and Bs, it does not mean they have ADHD, as this is a screening guide not a diagnosis tool. CAST can be seen as the first stage of the referral mechanism for the school SENCO to organise a full diagnostic assessment if needed. The classroom teacher may also wish to implement some key strategies for proactive management of children with ADHD symptoms to see if they help.

Child ADHD Screening Tool

Scoring:

- If a child scores twelve or more A and/or Bs then further assessment should be undertaken
- If a child scores between six and eleven A and/or Bs then further assessment should be strongly considered
- If a child scores less than six then further assessment may not be needed

CAST

A guide for teachers to identify children who may be struggling due to Inattention, Hyperactivity and/or Impulsivity, which are the core symptoms of ADHD

Name

D.O.B.

Year Group

Frequently
Often
Occasionally
Never

Please rate each item accordingly in terms of how much it has been a problem in the last month.

If never, tick D, if occasionally, tick C, if often, tick B and if frequently, tick A. Please respond to each issue

A **B** **C** **D**

Please tick

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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- Poor attention to detail and/or makes careless mistakes in written tasks
- Has difficulty in sustaining attention during tasks or activities
- Does not appear to focus or listen when spoken to directly
- Fails to finish tasks and activities in the classroom
- Has difficulty with organizing skills both self and tasks and activities
- Appears unable to complete tasks that require sustained mental effort
- Often loses pencils, pens or books
- Appears to be very easily distracted
- Is far more forgetful in comparison to peers
- Often fidgets with hands and/or rocks on chair when seated
- May often leave seat in the classroom without permission
- Runs and/or climbs excessively in comparison to peers when not seated
- Has difficulty in participating quietly in leisure activities
- Appears to always be "on the go" or often acts as if "driven by a motor"
- Often shouts out answers before questions have been completed
- Has great difficulties in waiting turn in comparison to peers
- Interrupts others (e.g. often butts into conversations or games)
- May talk excessively in comparison to peers

Academic Performance

Reading level	<input type="text"/>	National Average	<input type="text"/>
Writing level	<input type="text"/>	National Average	<input type="text"/>
Maths level	<input type="text"/>	National Average	<input type="text"/>

Any further comments

Reference

- American Psychiatric Association. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Psychiatric Disorders DSM-IV-TR (2009)
- The WHO ICD-10 Classification of Mental and Behavioural Disorders
- National Institute for Clinical Excellence. Full Guidance – Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: Diagnosis and management of ADHD in children, young people and adults, 14 March 2018.