Child Behavior Disorders

URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/childbehaviordisorders.html

Also called: Conduct disorders

All kids misbehave some times. And some may have temporary behavior problems due to stress. For example, the birth of a sibling, a divorce, or a death in the family may cause a child to act out. Behavior disorders are more serious. They involve a pattern of hostile, aggressive, or disruptive behaviors for more than 6 months. The behavior is also not appropriate for the child's age.

Warning signs can include

- Harming or threatening themselves, other people or pets
- Damaging or destroying property
- Lying or stealing
- Not doing well in school, skipping school
- Early smoking, drinking or drug use
- Early sexual activity
- Frequent tantrums and arguments
- Consistent hostility towards authority figures

If you see signs of a problem, ask for help. Poor choices can become habits. Kids who have behavior problems are at higher risk for school failure, mental health problems, and even suicide. Classes or family therapy may help parents learn to set and enforce limits. Talk therapy and behavior therapy for your child can also help.

Start Here


Overviews


Latest News


Diagnosis/Symptoms

- Children's Threats: When Are They Serious? [http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/Facts_for_Families_Pages/Childrens_
Threats_When_Are_They_Serious_65.aspx] (American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry)
Also available in Spanish
[http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/Facts_for_Families_Pages/Spanish/Las_Amenazas_de_los_Ninos_Cuando_Hay_Que_Tomarlas_en_Serio_65.aspx]
- When to Seek Help for Your Child
Also available in Spanish

Treatment
- Psychotherapies for Children and Adolescents
Also available in Spanish
[http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/Facts_for_Families_Pages/Spanish/Que_es_la_Psicoterapia_de_Ninos_y_Adolecentes_53.aspx]
- Taking Your Child to a Therapist [http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/finding_therapist.html] (Nemours Foundation)
Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/parent/en_espanol/emociones/finding_therapist_esp.html]
Also available in Spanish [http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/espanol/tratamiento-de-ni-os-con-enfermedades-mentales/]
- What Kind of Mental Health Professionals Are Trained to Help Children?

Specific Conditions
- Biting [http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/talk/stop_biting.html] (Nemours Foundation)
Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/parent/en_espanol/padres/stop_biting_esp.html]
Also available in Spanish
[http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/Facts_for_Families_Pages/Spanish/Los_Ninos_y_el_Mentir_44.aspx]
- Children Who Won't Go to School (Separation Anxiety)
Also available in Spanish
[http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/Facts_for_Families_Pages/Spanish/Los_Ninos_que_se_Niegan_a_ir_a_la_Escuela_Ansiedad_por_la_Separacion_07.aspx]
- Conduct Disorder
[http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/Facts_for_Families_Pages/Conduct_D
Disruptive Behavior Disorders

Fighting and Biting

Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)
[http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/oppositional-defiant-disorder/DS00630/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)

Shyness in Children

Temper Tantrums
[http://kidshealth.org/parent/emotions/behavior/tantrums.html] (Nemours Foundation)

Understanding Violent Behavior in Children and Adolescents

Related Issues
- How to Understand Your Child's Temperament
- Physical Punishment
- What about Punishment?
- Your Child's Habits
  [http://kidshealth.org/parent/emotions/behavior/five_habits.html] (Nemours Foundation)

Clinical Trials
- ClinicalTrials.gov. Adolescent Behavior
  [http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Adolescent+Behavior%22] NIH (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov. Child Behavior Disorders
  [http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/term=%22behavior+disorders%22+%5BCONDITION%5D+AND+child+%5BBAGE-GROUP%5D] NIH (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov. Conduct Disorder
  [http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Conduct+Disorder%22] NIH (National Institutes of Health)

Research
- Daily or Severe Tantrums May Point to Mental Health Issues

Journal Articles
References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)
- Article: Atypical antipsychotics for disruptive behavior disorders in children and youths.

Child Behavior Disorders: MedlinePlus (Print Version)

- Article: Behavioral and socioemotional outcomes through age 5 years of the... [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23702768?tool=MedlinePlus]

Directories
- Psychologist Locator [http://locator.apa.org/] (American Psychological Association)

Organizations
- American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry [http://www.aacap.org/]

Law and Policy

Children
- Going to a Psychologist, Psychiatrist, or Therapist [http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/emotion/going_to_therapist.html] (Nemours Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/kid/en_espanol/sentimientos/going_to_therapist Esp.html]

Teenagers
- Going to a Therapist [http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/mental_health/therapist.html] (Nemours Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/teen/en_espanol/mente/therapist Esp.html]
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/teen/en_espanol/mente/deal_with_anger Esp.html]

Patient Handouts
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000919.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/002211.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001537.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001922.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001517.htm]

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:
You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Child Development
- Child Mental Health
- Self-harm
- Teen Development
- Children and Teenagers
- Mental Health and Behavior

The primary NIH organization for research on Child Behavior Disorders is the National Institute of Mental Health
[http://www.nimh.nih.gov]

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