ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for joining us today!

1. Please collect/download your handout

2. Please introduce yourself to your neighbor, share your name, your occupation, & your motivation for joining our workshop today

3. We will work in pairs; please find a working partner/colleague. *For our remote colleagues, breakout rooms will be available to participate. Thank you!









Harvard Summer School HARVARD DIVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION



Teaching Neurodiverse Learners: Accessibility Services

Accessibility Services Staff

- Leora Simon- Director, oversee operations, consult on difficult student cases, coordinate with the other schools Accessibility Offices, policy and grievances
- Aviva Hollander- coordinator, responsible for coordinating exams, notetaking services, answer phone and general email inbox
- **Rachel Gregorek-** Assistant Director, Harvard Summer School but also works with students in Extension approving accommodations, reviewing documentation
- Megan O'Brien- Assistant Director, Harvard Extension School, responsible for student accommodations, reviewing documentation, working with financial and registration appeals staff
- Julia Herosian- Access Technology Specialist, coordinates efforts to provide students with accessible course materials and technology, works primarily with students with vision impairments and with a need for specific formats of materials

Introduction

Who are HES Students?

- Diverse!
- Come from all over
- All different countries
- Backgrounds
- Religions
- Races
- Sexual Orientation
- Disability Status
- Political Affiliations
- Understanding of the world around them is different based on experiences

HSS Students

You may have noticed that your syllabus now includes the following statement:

The Division of Continuing Education (DCE) is committed to providing an accessible academic community. The <u>Accessibility Services Office (ASO)</u> is responsible for providing accommodations to students with disabilities. Students must request accommodations or adjustments through the ASO. Instructors cannot grant accommodation requests without prior ASO approval. It is imperative to be in touch with the ASO as soon as possible to avoid delays in the provision of accommodation.

DCE takes student privacy seriously. Any medical documentation should be provided directly to the ASO if a substantial accommodation is required. If you miss class due to a short-term illness, notify your instructor and/or TA but do not include a doctor's note. Course staff will not request, accept, or review doctor's notes or other medical documentation. For more information, email accessibility@extension.harvard.edu.

Syllabus Statement

- Student Privacy, Unconscious Bias, Non-traditional- no access to campus health services
- Personal Jeopardy: Faculty members who work directly with students, discuss the disability, look over documentation, and agree to accommodation may be establishing themselves as the "gatekeepers" without meaning to do so. If the faculty member agrees to provide accommodation "x" and not accommodation "y" and later the student maintains that he/she was not appropriately accommodated, it is the faculty member's decision *Credit to Janie Jarrow PhD, White Paper Janie Jarow, White Paper
- Institutional Jeopardy: A student who provides documentation to a single faculty member (who accepts and acts on that documentation) may be able to make a legitimate case for saying he/she informed the institution of the disability and the need for accommodation. The faculty member should not be discussing the information that has been shared (because of issues of privacy and confidentiality), and yet the student may be expecting to receive similar consideration and accommodation from other faculty on the basis of having provided the documentation to someone in authority at the institution.
- * Credit to Janie Jarrow PhD

Why?

- In Accessibility Services, there is a big distinction between a short-term illness like the flu or a strep throat, and disability.
- Disability can be temporary (broken leg or arm) but a short-term illness is treated differently and not protected the same way disability is.
- In most cases, we typically refer students to class policies (get into that more on a later slide) if they are sick with a short-term illness.
- Disability is a protected class and if a student discloses a disability to you including ADHD or a learning disability, you should refer them to us and make sure they understand that we provide accommodations should they need them. Once you give them the information, it is the students responsibility to make any requests to us if they need them.
- Not all students with a disability require accommodation.
- If you are not sure if something is disability or not, you can always call us, email us, or simply suggest the student connect with us to find out if there are any questions.

Difference between illness and disability

- Indicate that you are not able to accept any late work regardless of circumstance (few are choosing this but there are some)
- Indicate that you require advance notice and will provide 1 (or in some instances 2) mulligans of 1-3 day extension without a reason (meaning students do not need to share why they are using the mulligan) simply need to tell you they are using the mulligan on a given assignment
- Tell students that they need to contact you with the reason for a late assignment but generally late assignments are not accepted and students wont be asked to provide verification of illness (honor code)
- If you feel strongly that you should require students to provide verification for medical reason, direct them to submit any medical notes to Accessibility Services. While we prefer not to get involved for short-term related illnesses (it muddies the waters), we are happy to review medical notes and recommend flexibility if appropriate

Policies and Discretion on when to accept late work/provide flexibility

How do I ensure equity?

How do I manage individual student needs for flexibility against the class need for getting feedback in a timely manner?

What are some strategies to build flexibility into my class?

What sort of communication do I have with students around my policies?

How do I set expectations?

Flexibility

INCLUSIVE TEACHING FOR NEURODIVERSE LEARNERS

Julie | Edith Julieta Sarmiento-Ponce | Instructor

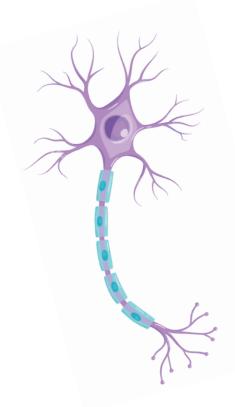




Harvard Division of Continuing Education



- Grateful → Excellent team of Harvard
 Summer School & Harvard Extension
 School Instructors
- Grateful \rightarrow To our **wonderful DCE staff**
- Instructor \rightarrow Foundations of Neuroscience, and Molecular & Cellular Biology





INTRODUCTION



- Neurodiverse person
- **ADHD** | Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder \rightarrow Late diagnosed: Age 34
- Honored to share neurodiversity awareness!

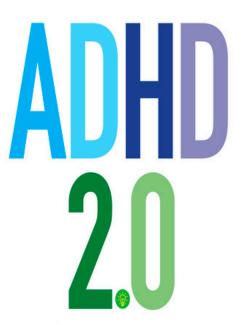


3

INTRODUCTION

- Personal research:
 - Excellent information about ADHD for adults in English (ADHD 2.0 | Dr Hallowell & Dr Ratey)
 - Not much information about ADHD for adults in Spanish
- Currently writing a book about ADHD a guide for adults in Spanish & English
- Hope/plan share neurodiversity
 awareness in Latin America in the future



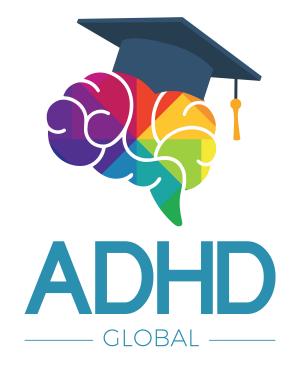


New Science and Essential Strategies for Thriving with Distraction from Childhood Through Adulthood



INTRODUCTION

- To keep motivated → Instagram
 @adhd.global | Weekly ADHD
 bilingual posts → Started in January, 8 months now!
- When I mention: "We" = Referring to people who live with ADHD or other neurodiversity







LEARNING OBJECTIVES



- 1. Reflect on neurodiversity
- 2. Learn some of the characteristics of ADHD learners
- 3. Foster an inclusive teaching environment for neurodiverse learners & for everyone!



TIP!

When you see any of the following icons

Please pay **special attention** since it will be a **clue** to **write** on your **handouts**!







What comes to mind when hearing the word neurodiversity?

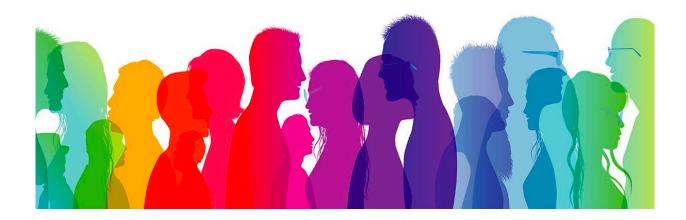
*We encourage in-person & online participation, please!





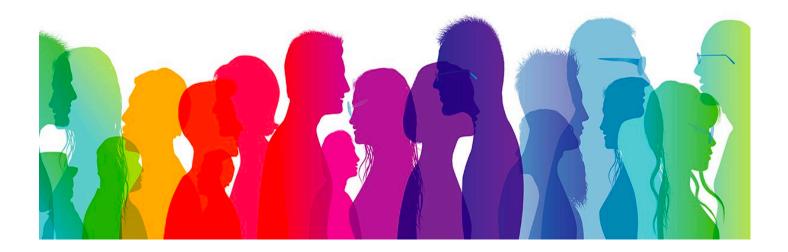
Neurodiversity \rightarrow concept that emphasizes the natural variation in human **neurology**, including differences in:

- **Cognitive** (thinking, reasoning, problem-solving, memory, attention, language, & decision-making)
- Sensory (vision, hearing, touch, taste, & smell)
- Neurological functioning (overall functioning of the nervous system)





Suggests \rightarrow these variations are a **normal** & **valuable** part of the **human experience** rather than solely being considered deficits or disorders, challenging traditional views that label certain **neurological conditions** as inherently negative or pathological







Term: Neurodiversity \rightarrow coined by: Australian sociologist **Judy Singer** \rightarrow late 1990s

- Proposed → change the narrative around: neurological differences
- Reframing from disorders to be cured or normalized to encourages society to recognize & embrace the diverse ways human brains function



NEURODIVERSITY CONDITIONS

What types of neurodiversity conditions are you familiar with, or have you heard mentioned?

*We encourage in-person & online participation, please!





COMMON NEURODIVERSITY CONDITIONS



- ASD | Autism Spectrum Disorder
- **ADHD** | Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Dyslexia
- Dyscalculia
- Intellectual Developmental Disorder
- Tourette Syndrome
- **SPD** | Sensory Processing Disorder
- NVLD | Nonverbal Learning Disability

*Glossary of terms on our handout



Neurodiversity conditions primarily refer to variations in:

- Neurodevelopment
- Neurocognition





MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

Mood conditions:

- Depression
- Bipolar Disorder
- Anxiety Disorders:
 - OCD | Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
 - PTSD | Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

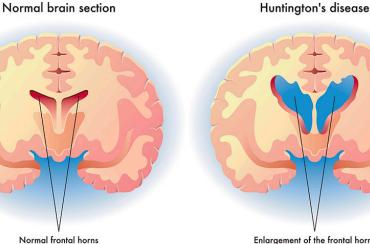
Mental health conditions:

- Eating Disorders
- Substance Use Disorder





MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS



of the lateral ventricles

Enlargement of the frontal horns

of the lateral ventricles

Neurodegenerative conditions:

- Schizophrenia
- BPD | Borderline
 - Personality Disorder

Neurodegenerative conditions (age-related):

- Huntington's Disease
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Parkinson's Disease
- Dementia









- We will focus on **ADHD learners**
- Due to my neurodiverse
 background & experience
- Office hours \rightarrow Our neurodiverse students at summer school:
 - Share helpful & not-so-helpful learning approaches



2. ADHD CHARACTERISTICS

ADHD | ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVE DISORDER

• What comes to mind when hearing about the condition ADHD?

*We encourage in-person & online participation, please!





2

ADHD | ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVE DISORDER

It is NOT a disorder or a disease but a set of distinctive characteristics of a neurodiverse mind





2

ADHD | ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVE DISORDER



Neurodevelopmental condition → ongoing research → potential risk factors:

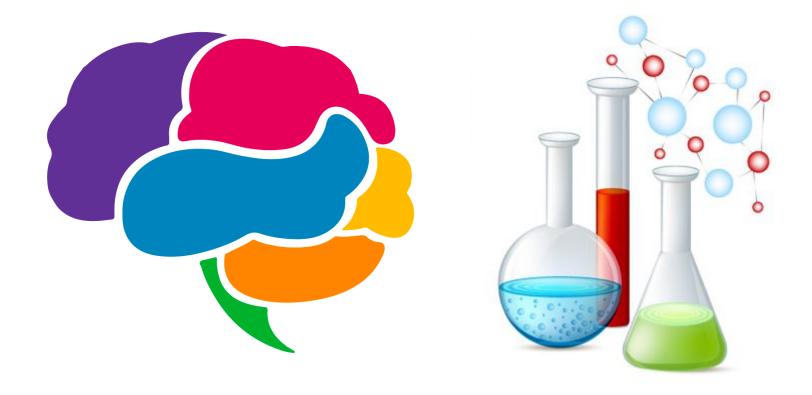
1. Genetics

- 2. Lack of oxygen at birth
- 3. Traumatic experience



ADHD | BRAIN CHEMISTRY

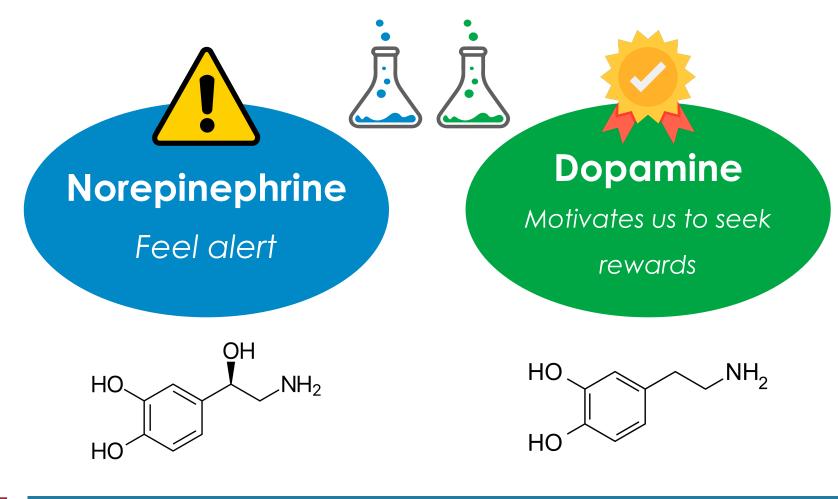
• Our brain chemistry is different







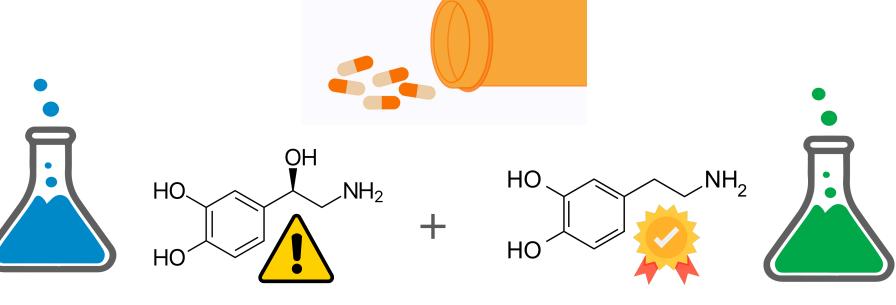
• Lower levels of neurotransmitters:







- Medication: Combined (Norepinephrine + Dopamine) \rightarrow Easier to concentrate for longer & feel good (short-term)
- More research required → long-term effects of taking these stimulants







 "Deficit" of attention → We do not have a deficit of attention

ADHD = Attention deficit Difficulty regulating where we focus our attention

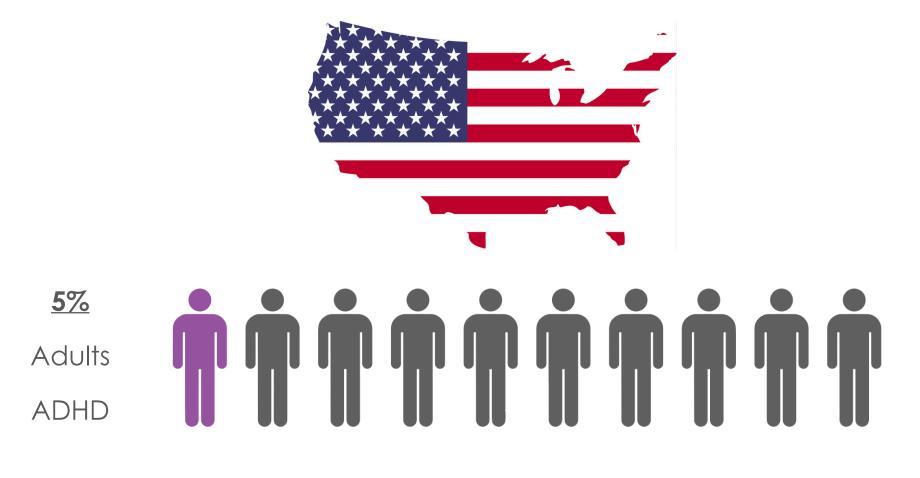




2



2. "A child's condition that will be outgrown"



2





3. "Women can't have ADHD" \rightarrow Diagnosis often overlooked at a younger age in women





UNDIAGNOSED ADHD IN WOMEN



Reasons for the disparity:

- **Different manifestation** of characteristics:

 - Women \uparrow inattentiveness,

daydreaming, & disorganization



UNDIAGNOSED ADHD IN WOMEN

Different coping mechanisms

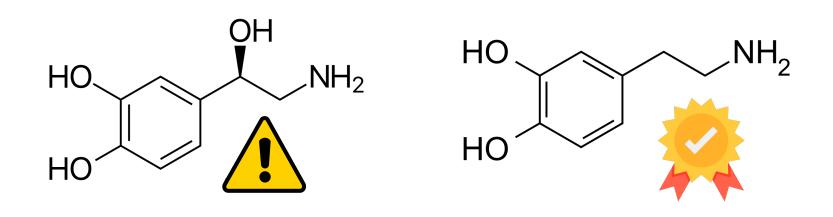


- Extra effort to appear organized & attentive → delay or prevent diagnosis
- Diagnostic criteria
 - \uparrow Research \rightarrow male population
- Overlapping conditions
 - Undiagnosed ADHD in women \rightarrow
 - can lead to **anxiety** & **depression**





4. "ADHD is not real. It is just laziness or too much energy" \rightarrow Our **brain chemistry levels** are different, we need different strategies.







5. "Hyperactive behavior is always present, fidgeting, not being able to stay still" \rightarrow Inattentiveness, daydreaming & disorganization





HANDOUT 1 | ADHD COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

- Ideas popping up as
 popcorn in a machine
- Ideas → emerge in
 spontaneous & erratic bursts
- Often → we can't tune out this idea creation at night
- Our minds don't seem to rest

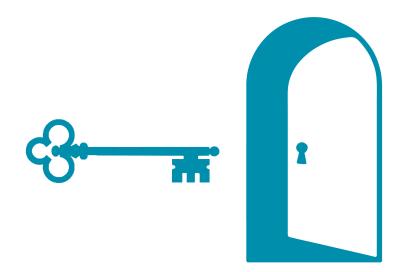






6. "An ADHD diagnosis is a label"

An ADHD diagnosis is not a label, it is a key to **self-understanding**





THE ADHD ICEBERG

Distracted Distraíd@ Disorganized Desorganizad@

Forgetful Olvidadiz@

Impulsiv@

Easily bored Fácilmente aburrid@

Low self-esteem Baja autoestima

Anxiety & Depression Ansiedad & Depresión

> Learning difficulties Dificultades de aprendizaje

Poor working memory Corta memoria de trabajo

Hypersensitive to rejection Hipersensible al rechazo Often late A menudo tarde

> Hyperactive Hiperactiv@

Hyperfocus Hiperenfoque

Time blindness Ceguera del tiempo

Forgetting to eat Olvidar comer

Poor sleep & Restlessness Dormir mal e Intranquilidad

Difficulty with self-care Dificultad con el autocuidado

Emotionally reactive Emocionalmente reactiv@

Difficulty maintaining relationships & jobs

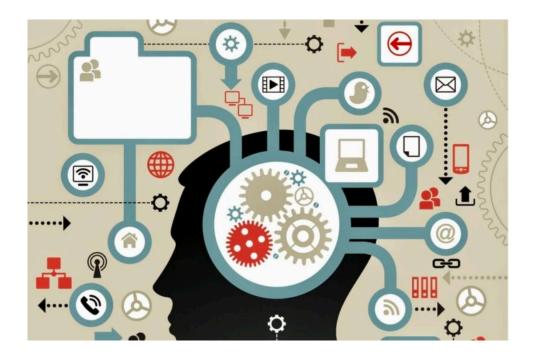
Dificultad para mantener relaciones y trabajos

@adhd.global



ADHD | ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVE DISORDER

- Tendency \rightarrow Struggle with **executive functions**
- What are executive functions?





EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

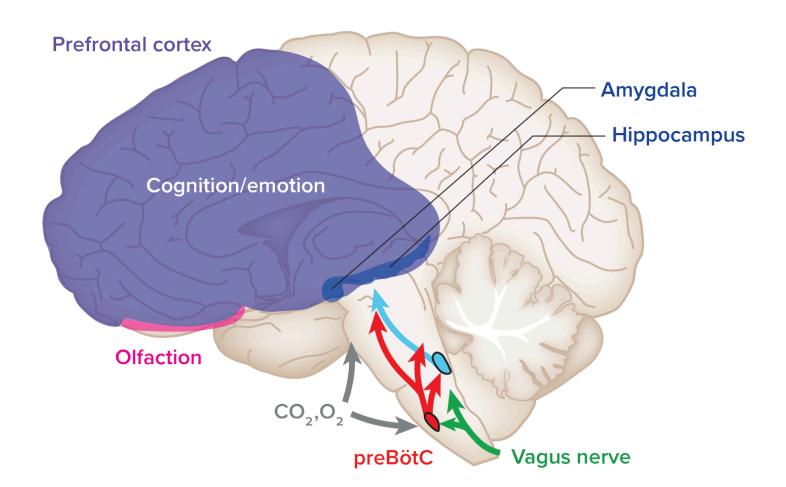


Perseverance



Time Management

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS



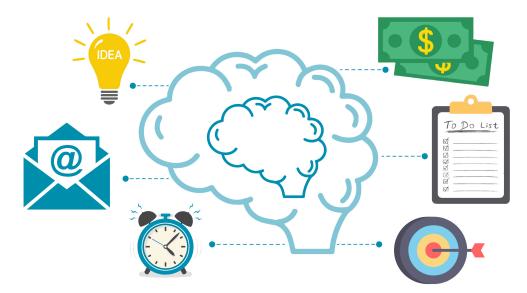


Task Paralysis

When we feel hesitant, overwhelmed, or unmotivated to begin a

task. As a result, we tend to procrastinate and avoid the task by

doing other activities or zoning out.







• Course Schedule page \rightarrow Include deadlines per week

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Week 1 Date	<u>Lecture 1</u>	Assignment 1	Lecture 2	<u>Lab 1</u>
Week 2 Date	Lecture 3	Assignment 2	Lecture 4	
Week 3 Date	Lecture 5		<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Lab 2</u>

*Hyperlinks to the assignments, slides, lab protocols



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@adhd.globa



ADHD STUDY | UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Math Video

Same Student 10-Minute Timelapse

University of Central Florida

Star Wars





ADHD STUDY | UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

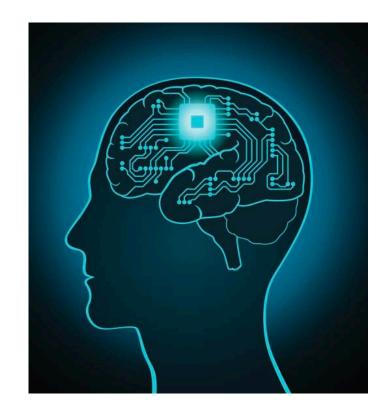


Research → demonstrated that
 fidgeting → most often present
 when children were using their
 brains' executive functions,
 particularly "working memory"

- Working memory → system we use for temporarily storing & managing information required to carry out complex cognitive tasks such as:
 - Learning
 - Reasoning
 - Comprehension



ADHD & WORKING MEMORY

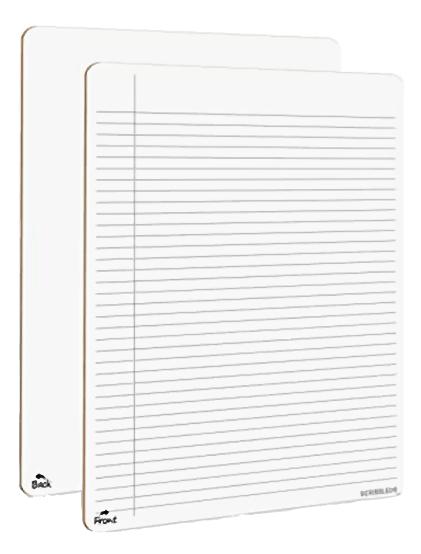


 Struggle with holding & managing information in our mind while performing tasks:

- Difficulty remembering details
- Difficulty following verbal multi-step instructions or conversations
- Difficulty keeping track of what needs to be done



WORKING MEMORY EXAMPLE







- Try to avoid verbal instructions
- Write questions on the board or on the slides
- Allow students to **take notes** while explaining instructions
- Politely emphasize to carefully read the instructions (exams or assignments)





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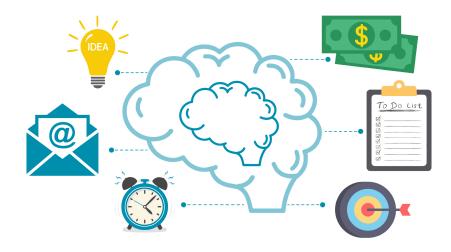
Difficulty maintaining relationships & jobs

Dificultad para mantener relaciones y trabajos

@adhd.globa



EASILY BORED | LEARNING DIFFICULTIES



- Difficulty sustaining

 attention on tasks that we
 find unstimulating or
 repetitive (checking the mail or
 email, paying bills)
- Difficulty maintaining motivation to finish long projects





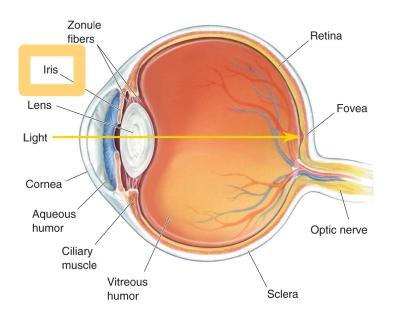
Neurodiverse learners → often visual learners →
 less text on slides, more images, videos, diagrams
 & any visual aids







 Tend to learn by association → storytelling, anecdotes, real-life examples, comparisons with day-to-day objects









TEACHING STRATEGY | LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

- Try to include a slide of learning
 objectives → why is it important to learn
 this topic?
- Try to include a **summary slide** \rightarrow to consolidate the content



TEACHING STRATEGY | LEARNING DIFFICULTIES



- Active Learning
 - Activities during class to engage in pair or group discussions
 - Think-Pair-Share
 - **PollEverywhere** \rightarrow Live quizzes
- Handouts
 - Write reflections
 - Fill in the blanks







 Try at the beginning of the next class → in these cards, please write three learnings you remember from our previous class





• Home quizzes

- Crosswords
- Matching columns
- Reflection questions

ASSIGNMENTS	
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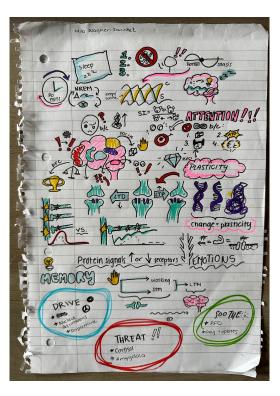




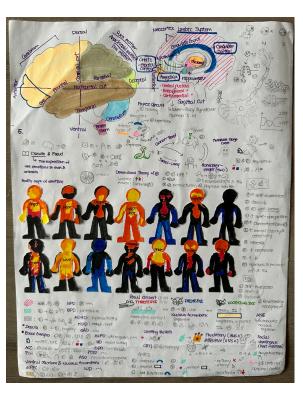




ILLUSTRATIVE GUIDES FOR EXAM



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• Exam Reflection

- 1/2 points back:
 - Explain right answer
 - Explain why my answer was incorrect
- Students re-learn the concepts & consolidate the knowledge







 Using SLACK to communicate → helps find information more easily → We tend to find it more efficient than email







- 5 min break at least every hour
- **HSS** \rightarrow 3 hour classes! \rightarrow 2 (5 min) recommended breaks





THE ADHD ICEBERG

Distracted Distraíd@

Forgetful Olvidadiz@

Impulsiv@

Easily bored Fácilmente aburrid@

Low self-esteem Baja autoestima

Anxiety & Depression Ansiedad & Depresión

> Learning difficulties Dificultades de aprendizaje

Poor working memory

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Difficulty with self-care Dificultad con el autocuidado

Emotionally reactive Emocionalmente reactiv@

Difficulty maintaining relationships & jobs Dificultad para mantener relaciones y trabajos

ADHD - GLOBAL-



Rejection Sensitive Dysphoria | RSD

An overwhelming emotional sensation that a person may experience in response to an actual or perceived rejection or criticism. Condition that can result in low mood and self-esteem.









- Active Listening + Inclusive language:
 - I would recommend...
 - It sounds like...
 - It seems like...
 - I noticed that...
 - I have the impression that...
 - I wonder if...
 - I would like to add...
 - I would like to invite you to...
 - I echo your view...
 - Building up on your contribution...
 - If you can, please consider...
 - If you feel comfortable, please...
 - My understanding is that...
 - It is advisable to consult with...



• Wrong answer:

- That is a good start, but there's a small correction...
- Almost there! Let's review it together...
- That was very close, that was a great contribution, we would like to remember...

• Correct answer:

- That is an excellent contribution/ great point! I would like to add...
- Excellent point!
- You're absolutely right!

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE





THE HIDDEN GIFTS OF THE ADHD ICEBERG

Distracted Distraíd@s

Forgetful Olvidadiz@s

Impulsiv@s

Entrepreneur Emprendedores

Creative & Artistic Creativ@s y Artístic@s

Witty & Charming Ocurrentes y Encantadores

> Positive & Optimistic Positiv@s y Optimist@s

Empathetic & Sensitive Empátic@s y Sensibles

Great intuition & Risk takers Gran intuición y Tomadores de riesgos Disorganized Desorganizad@s

> Often late A menudo tarde

> > Hyperactive Hiperactiv@s

Unconventional Poco convencional

Honest & Open Honestos y Abiertos

Brave & Adventurous Valientes y Aventurer@s

Imaginative & Daydreamers Imaginativos y Soñadores

Hyperfocus & Hyperfixation Hiperenfoque e Hiperfijación

Excellent managing crisis Excelente manejo de crisis

Resourceful with lateral thinking Ingenios@s con pensamiento lateral

adha.global adhd.global.edu







HANDOUT 2 | TEACHING STRATEGIES

In pairs | Think-Pair-Share | 3-5 min

1. Write three or more helpful teaching strategies + three or more not-so-helpful teaching strategies.

2. Reflect \rightarrow How could you implement the helpful teaching strategies on your courses?





3. IN SUMMARY

IN SUMMARY



 Reflected on neurodiversity & associated mental health conditions
 Learned some of the characteristics of ADHD learners

3. We reflected on how to foster
an inclusive teaching
environment for neurodiverse
learners & for everyone



TEACHING STRATEGIES SUMMARY

- 1. Neurodiverse learners \rightarrow often visual learners \rightarrow images,
- videos, diagrams & visual aids
- 2. Tend to learn by association \rightarrow storytelling
- 3. Try to include a slide of **learning objectives** \rightarrow **why** is it important to learn this topic?
- 4. Try to include a **summary slide** \rightarrow to consolidate the content
- 5. Try at the beginning of the next class \rightarrow in these **cards**, please write three learnings you remember from our previous class



ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS





REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS

In 2 min | Please write in your cards (only cards will be collected =) for feedback purposes):

1. Two or three **aspects** you found most **relevant/helpful/interesting**

2. Any room for improvement for our workshop

*For our online participants, please write this reflection in your handouts





THANK YOU!

REFERENCES

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