



RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Teaching and Learning Support Services

Learning Accommodation Services

Aspects of Adult ADHD

1. Among hyperactive individuals, about half “outgrow” the syndrome by the early adult years, while half continue to have mildly to severely disabling symptoms. Individuals who continue to have two or more symptoms of the syndrome are most likely to engage in serious antisocial behavior and/or drug or alcohol abuse during adult years.
2. There is no evidence that a childhood diagnosis of ADHD increases the risk of a psychotic disorder. Compared to the general population, however, hyperactive adults are at greater risk for psychiatric disorders, especially “personality disorders,” which are characterized by dependency, immaturity and impulsiveness.
3. As adults, many hyperactive individuals continue to have low self-esteem. Many, too, describe their childhood as unhappy.
4. Many hyperactive adults appear to make a better overall adjustment once they leave school. Freed from a setting which emphasizes their weaknesses and faced with more options concerning lifestyle, many do surprisingly well. As a group, however, their work status and employer ratings tend to be somewhat lower than in a comparable group of nonhyperactive adults.
5. ADHD is a physiological, NOT a psychological disorder.