



Family Dynamics in Homes Where a Child is Diagnosed with ADHD

Understanding ADHD (EDPS 693.83 L60)

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1. Topic Relevance
2. Review of Course Reading
3. Extending the Readings – Significant Issues
4. Implications for Intervention: Case Study Activity
5. Future Directions



Agenda & Presentation Objectives

- How many of you have heard a parent's frustration with their child's behaviours related to their ADHD?
- How many of you have witnessed marital breakdown in families where a child has ADHD?
- How many of you have worked with a child with a ADHD whose parent also had ADHD?
- How many of you have wondered if a child's home environment exacerbates their ADHD?



Families of children with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: Review and Recommendations for Future Research

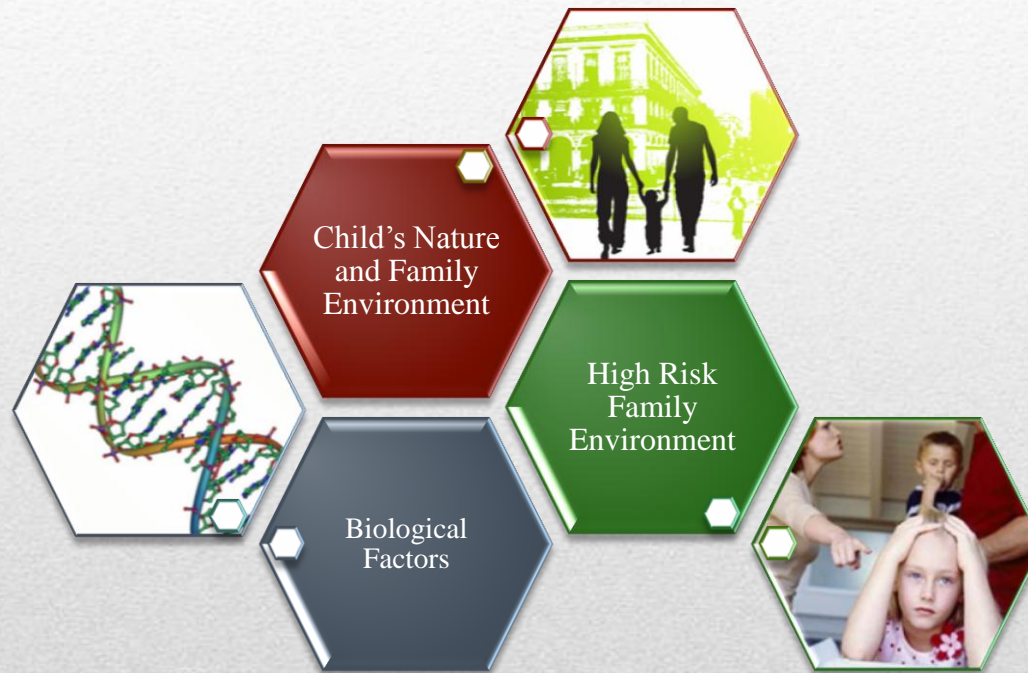
Johnston, C. & Mash, E.J. (2001).



Reading Review

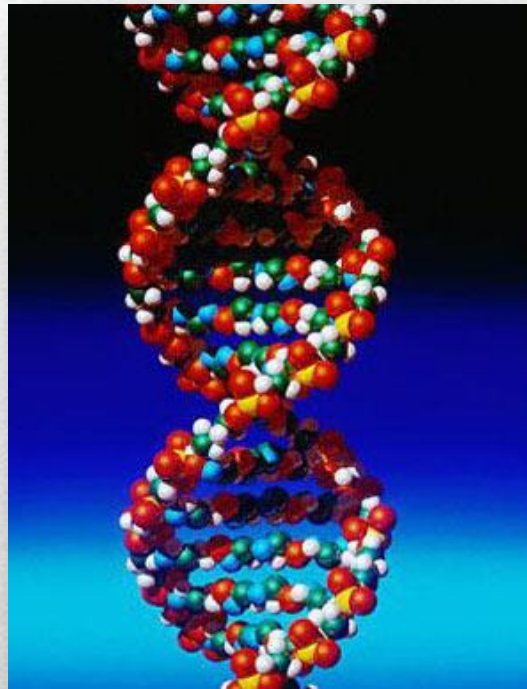
“Across children and across time, various influences weigh differently in the development of the disorder”

(Johnston & Mash, 2001, p. 183)



Developmental Psychopathology Framework

- Genetic disposition



Biological Risk Factors

- Family adversities (Foley, 2010)
- Chaotic or unresponsive environment
- Co-occurring conduct problems



High-Risk Family Environment



**Child with
ADHD's
behaviour**



**Negative reactions
from other family
members**

Child's Nature & Family Environment

- Experience more stressful and conflicted family environments
- Families often make adaptations to their daily lives (Firmin & Phillips, 2009)
- Less satisfaction from parenting (Schroeder & Kelly, 2009)



Family Relationships

Parent-Child Interaction

Children with ADHD	Parenting Styles of Children with ADHD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less compliant• More negative• Argumentative <p>(Peris & Hinshaw, 2003)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directive• Negative• Controlling• Repeat Commands• Verbally reprimand and corrections• Less socially interactive• Lower limit setting <p>(Modesto-Lowe, Danforth, & Brooks, 2010; Schroeder & Kelly, 2009)</p>

ADHD and ODD and CD Comparison

ADHD with comorbid conduct problems demonstrated higher levels of :

- negative child behaviour
- rejection-coercion
- inconsistent parenting

- Conduct problems in children are a significant predictor of adolescent conduct problems
- Positive family interactions between families of children with ADHD and ADHD with conduct problem



Socioeconomic status and parenting style influence aggressive behaviours, but not ADHD symptoms

Affects of authoritative parenting beliefs and parental sensitivity between parents and their boys with ADHD

Parenting behaviours on ADHD and conduct problems vs ADHD symptoms

Positive family interactions between families of children with ADHD and ADHD with conduct problems



Free Play

- Children were more compliant
- Mothers were less directive
- Mothers were more likely to respond to children's interactions



Task Situation

- When their child was medicated, parental behavioral seemed to improve in regards to task based interactions and only when higher doses of medication were used

Child Medication & Parent Behaviour

Marital Relationships

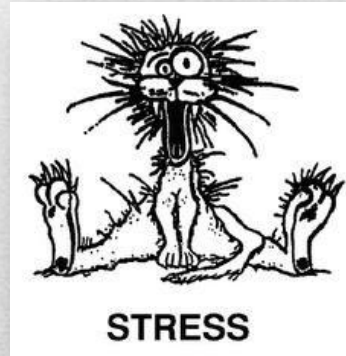
ADHD	ADHD with Co-morbidities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• less marital satisfaction and conflict• did not report more marital conflict• blame sons with ADHD for marital difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• poorer marital adjustment within families with adolescent ADHD with co-morbidities• more marital issues than controls• Mothers of aggressive and hyperactive preschoolers reported a higher rate of marital conflict than mothers of hyperactive children

Parenting Sense of Competency

(Modesto-Lowe, Danfoth, & Brooks, 2008)

Parent/Child Interactions

(Lifford, Harold, Thapar, 2009; Tripp, Schaughency,, Langlands, Mouat, 2007; Theule, Wiener, Tannock, & Jenkins, 2010)

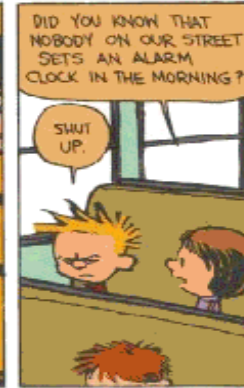
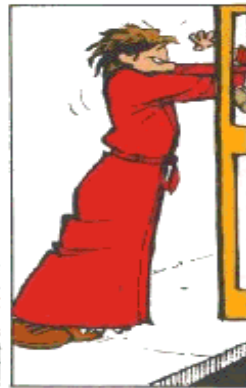
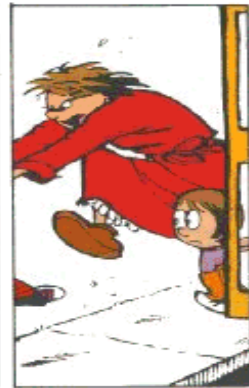
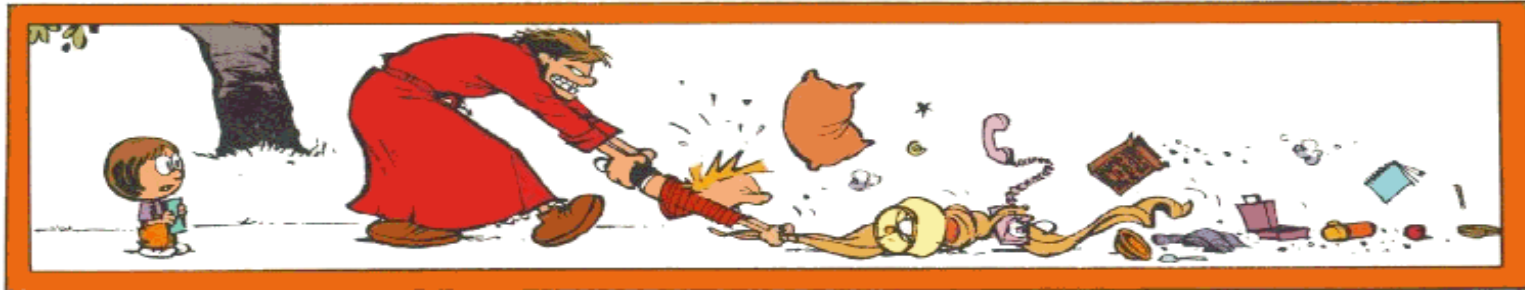


Sibling Relationship

(Mikami & Pfiffner, 2008)

Family Stress

calvin
and
hobbes
by WATSON



Parental Psychological Functioning

More affective disorders in relatives of boys of with ADHD

Depression within mothers of children with ADHD

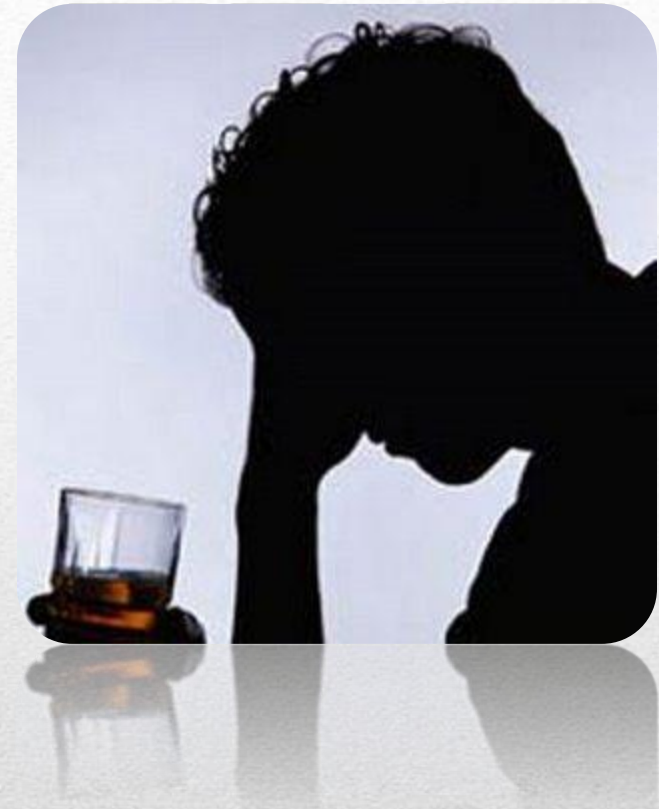
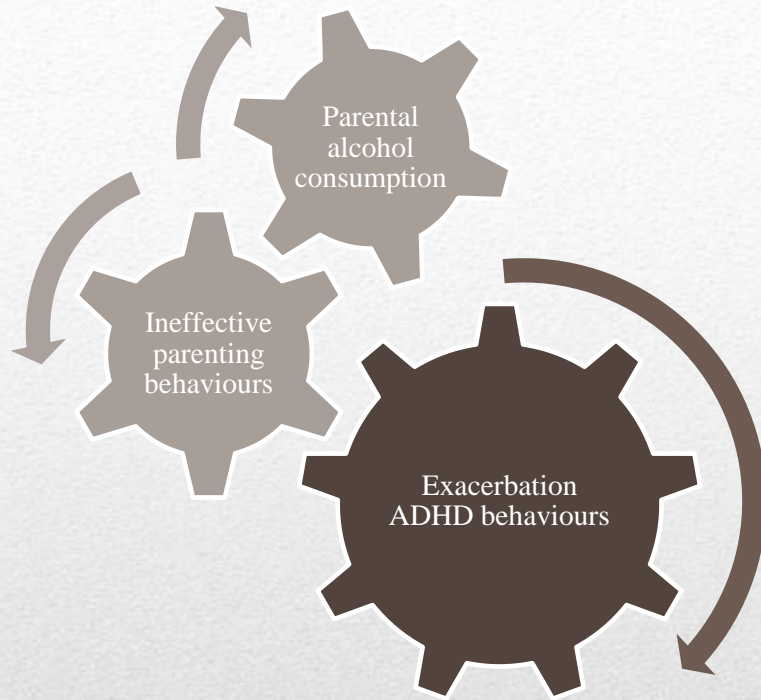


Depression within fathers of children with ADHD

Elevated rates of anxiety disorders within female relatives of children with ADHD

No differences in depression reported by mothers of children with and without ADHD

No differences in depression reported by fathers of children with and without ADHD



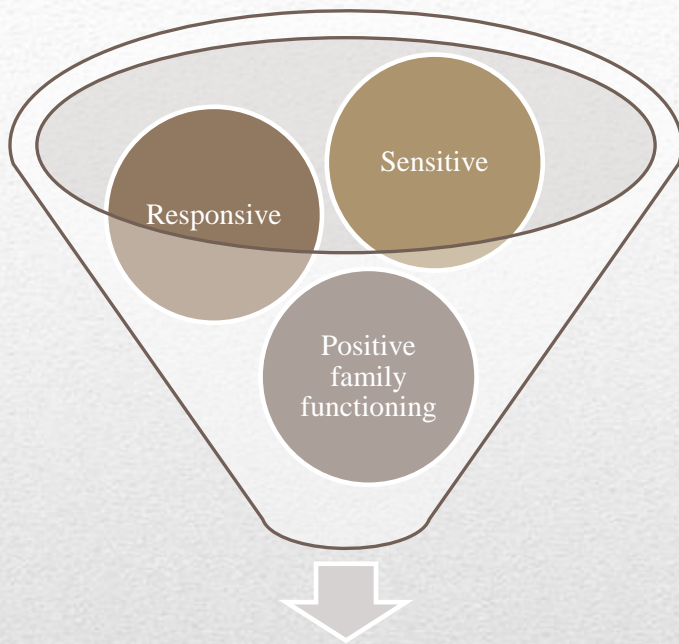
- Studies differ
- Cyclical nature

Parental Alcoholism

Parental criminality is more strongly associated with conduct disorder than ADHD



Parental Anti-Social Behaviour



Positive outcomes for children
with ADHD



Predicting Positive Outcomes

A parent approaches you and explains that she is becoming increasingly frustrated with her 8 year old son's inability to complete his homework tasks because he is easily distracted and gets off track. Lately, when she tries to re-focus his attention, he acts out aggressively. This is causing stress on her marriage, her relationship with her child, and his grades are declining. She shares she feels helpless and that this is all her fault.

- a) How would you respond?
- b) What else would you like to know about the situation?
- c) What supports and/or strategies could you suggest?



Implications for Intervention

Large Group Discussion

- Increased focus on developmental pathway
- Increased research into protective factors
- Increased longitudinal research
- Increased research into how marital/family functioning relates to ADHD vs how ADHD relates to marital/family functioning



Future Directions

- Firmin, M.W. & Phillips, A. (2009). A qualitative study of families and children possessing diagnoses of ADHD. *Journal of Family Issues*, 30(9), 1155-1174. doi: 10.1177/0192513X09333709
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Questions and Comments
