

Need to Identify Students with ADHD

By: Don Reist

Here are the contents of a letter I recently sent to Ontario's Minister of Education. We must act on this matter.

Topic: Identifying students with ADHD

As a certified Special Education teacher, Specialist, OCT, I have been working with students with ADHD for the past 17 years. I often describe these students as having three tornados blowing around in their minds all at the same time. They desperately struggle to focus their thoughts throughout their lives. In the classroom they have great difficulty in following lessons and instructions. They require intervention, intervention which is often a few simple accommodations. Accommodations which are afforded identified students. As they fall behind, they often begin to act out as they seek the help they require. There is no need for things to progress to this level. Identifying ADHD and preparing a proper IEP with suitable accommodations for the student is not only required, it is the right thing to do. I have struggled all my life with the passive form of ADHD. I can assure you it greatly affected my ability to compete and complete the curriculum.