# Integrating Non-Pharmacological Interventions in ADHD Treatment

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# Agenda

- 1. Importance of Non-Pharmacological Interventions in ADHD Treatment
- 2. An overview of CPG-ADHD Program
- 3. Student support
  - Occupational therapy group
  - Physiotherapy group
  - Speech therapy group
- 4. Parent / Carer support
- 5. Concluding remark





## IMPORTANCE OF NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS IN ADHD TREATMENT



The National Institute of Mental Health Multimodal Treatment Study of Children with AD/HD (MTA)



#### (Swanson et al., 2001)



Parent-reported irritability response to multimodal treatment in the 4 treatment groups





- Meta-analysis by Purdie, Hattie & Carroll (2002)
  - Examine 74 studies assessing the effectiveness of different intervention approaches on the behavioural, cognitive and social functioning of individuals with ADHD





#### TABLE 1 Summary of KASs for Diagnosing, Evaluating, and Treating ADHD in Children and Adolescents

KASs	Evidence Quality, Strength of Recommendation	
KAS 1: The pediatrician or other PCC should initiate an evaluation for ADHD for any child or adolescent age 4 years to the 18th birthday who presents with academic or behavioral problems and symptoms of inattention, hyperactivity, or impulsivity	Grade B, strong recommendation	
KAS 2: To make a diagnosis of ADHD, the PCC should determine that <i>DSM-5</i> criteria have been met, including documentation of symptoms and impairment in more than 1 major setting (ie, social, academic, or occupational), with information obtained primarily from reports from parents or guardians, teachers, other school personnel, and mental health clinicians who are involved in the child or adolescent's care. The PCC should also rule out any afternative cause.	Grade B, strong recommendation	
KAS 3: In the evaluation of a child or adolescent for ADHD, the PCC should include a process to at least screen for comorbid conditions, including emotional or behavioral conditions (eg, anxiety, depression, oppositional defiant disorder, conduct disorders, substance use), developmental conditions (eg, learning and language disorders, autism spectrum disorders), and physical conditions (eg. tics, sleep apnea).	Grade B, strong recommendation	
KAS 4: ADHD is a chronic condition; therefore, the PCC should manage children and adolescents with ADHD in the same manner that they would children and youth with special health care needs, following the principles of the chronic care model and the medical home.	Grade B, strong recommendation	
KAS 5a: For preschool-aged children (age 4 years to the sixth birthday) with ADHD, the PCC should prescribe evidence-based PTBM and/or behavioral classroom interventions as the first line of treatment, if available.	Grade A, strong recommendation for PTBM	
Methylphenidate may be considered if these behavioral interventions do not provide significant improvement and there is moderate-to-severe continued disturbance in the 4- through 5-year-old child's functioning. In areas in which evidence-based behavioral treatments are not available, the clinician needs to weigh the risks of starting medication before the age of 6 years against the harm of delaying treatment.	Grade B, strong recommendation for methylphenidate	
KAS 5b. For elementary and middle school-aged children (age 6 years to the 12th birthday) with ADHD, the PCC should prescribe FDA-approved medications for ADHD, along with PTBM and/or behavioral classroom intervention (preferably both PTBM and behavioral classroom interventions). Educational interventions and individualized instructional supports, including school environment, class placement, instructional placement, and behavioral supports, are a necessary part of any treatment plan and often include an IEP or a rehabilitation plan (504 plan).	Grade A, strong recommendation for medications Grade A, strong recommendation for training and behavioral treatments for ADHD with family and school	
KAS 5c. For adolescents (age 12 years to the 18th birthday) with ADHD, the PCC should prescribe FDA-approved medications for ADHD with the adolescent's assent. The PCC is encouraged to prescribe evidence-based training interventions and/or behavioral interventions as treatment of ADHD, if available. Educational interventions and individualized instructional supports, including school environment, class placement, instructional placement, and behavioral supports, are a necessary part of any treatment plan and often include an IEP or a rehabilitation plan (504 plan).	Grade A, strong recommendation for medications Grade A, strong recommendation for training and behavioral treatments for ADHD with the family and school	
KAS 6. The PCC should titrate doses of medication for ADHD to achieve maximum benefit with tolerable side effects.	Grade B, strong recommendation	
KAS 7. The PCC, if trained or experienced in diagnosing comorbid conditions, may initiate treatment of such conditions or make a referral to an appropriate subspecialist for treatment. After detecting possible comorbid conditions, if the PCC is not trained or experienced in making the diagnosis or initiating treatment, the patient should be referred to an appropriate subspecialist to make the diagnosis and initiate treatment.	Grade C, recommendation	◎ 協康會
Clinical Practice Guideline for Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Tr	eatment of Attention-Deficit/ Hyperactivity	Disorder in

Clinical Practice Guideline for Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Treatment of Attention-Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder in Children and Adolescents by American Academy of Pediatrics (Wolraich et al. 2019)

- KAS 5b. by American Academy of Pediatrics (Wolraich et al. 2019)
- Recommendation for elementary and middle school-aged children (aged 6-12 years old) including:
  - Strong recommendation for medications
  - Strong recommendation for training and behavioural treatments for ADHD with family and school, such as:
    - Parent training in behaviour management
    - Behavioural classroom intervention
    - Behavioural support
- KAS 7. Primary care clinicians may make a referral to an appropriate subspecialist for treatment



#### Children aged 5 years and over and young people

These recommendations, covering children aged 5 years and over and young people, are for healthcare professionals with training and expertise in diagnosing and managing ADHD. March 2018 – medicines used for treating ADHD did not have a UK marketing authorisation for children aged 5 years or under (off-label use). See <u>NICE's information on prescribing medicines</u>.

- 1.5.10 Give information about ADHD (see <u>recommendation 1.4.3</u>) and offer additional support to parents and carers of all children aged 5 years and over and young people with ADHD. The support should be <u>ADHD</u> focused, can be group based and as few as 1 or 2 sessions. It should include:
  - education and information on the causes and impact of ADHD
  - advice on parenting strategies
  - with consent, liaison with school, college or university (see recommendation 1.4.12)
  - both parents and carers if feasible. [2018]

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: diagnosis and management, NICE guideline, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence,

https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng87/chapter/Recommendations#managing-adhd





## Summary

- Importance of combined treatment (medication + behavioural treatment)
- Participation of appropriate subspecialists
- Behavioural support and treatment
- ADHD-focused support to parents and carers





## AN OVERVIEW OF CPG-ADHD PROGRAM



# **CPG-ADHD** Program

## 躍動成長路 - ADHD 兒童執行功能訓練計劃

- Community-based support project for ADHD students and their parents with multidisciplinary involvement
- Funded by Community Project Grant of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust
- Kick-started since 2011
- Served over 930 students with ADHD and 350 parents



# **CPG-ADHD** Program

## Tailored and professional intervention by specialists

- Multidisciplinary involvement by
  - Occupational Therapist (OT)
  - Physiotherapist (PT)
  - Speech Therapist (ST)
  - Educational Psychologist (EP)
  - Social Worker (SW)



- 1. Addressing daily life challenges of ADHD students
- Difficulties in self-care and organization
  - Self-care ability is generally lower than their peers
  - Difficulties in planning, organization and time management
- Difficulties in motor-function and coordination
  - Neuromotor difficulties
    - $\rightarrow$  affect learning, social and team sport performance
- Difficulties in language expression
  - Difficulties in organization, expression and cohesion of language
  - Less capable in communicating task essential information to peers in cooperative tasks
- Strained parent-child relationship
  - Parental stress index is associated with severity of ADHD symptoms



## 2. Importance of executive function (EF) training

- Emerging literature, coupled with Barkley's (1997), has set forth a linkage between **ADHD and deficits in EF**.
- Barkley (1997) initially argued that deficits in behavioural inhibition as a result of executive dysfunctions, are specified as a core underlying deficit responsible for ADHD, and would create a cascade of deficits into other EFs, such as working memory, emotional and motivational self-regulation, and planning-problem solving.
- According to the new working definition of ADHD (Brown, 2013),
  - ADHD = A complex syndrome of developmental impairment of executive functions, the self-management system of the brain.
- ADHD is now viewed as a disorder of self-regulation and EF (Barkley, 2014)



### 3. Fulfilling the existing service gaps in ADHD support

- Increasing number of students with ADHD in primary school
  - Increase from 5,110 in 2018/19 to 5,670 in 2023/2024

Integrate	d Education							
Number of St	udents with Special Ec	lucational Needs (SEN) in Public Sector Ordina	ry Primary and Seco	ndary Schools from	the 2018/19 to 202	23/24 school years -	categorised by Sch	ool Level and SEN Type
School Level	SEN Type		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	ID		760	810	930	990	1 090	1 170
	ASD		5 690	6 400	6 880	6 930	6 850	6 970
	AD/HD		5 110	5 500	6 030	5 830	5 750	5 670
	MI		60	70	130	130	160	170
<b>D</b> '	SpLD		10 370	11 200	11 220	11 590	12 190	12 920
Primary	PD		110	110	130	110	100	80
-	VI		40	30	40	30	40	40
	HI		360	390	380	370	350	360
	SLI		2 510	2 810	2 910	3 330	3 380	3 650
	Total		25 010	27 320	28 650	29 310	29 910	31 030

#### Number of students with ADHD increased by 11% from 2018/19 to 2023/24

Figures and Statistics, Education Bureau, <a href="https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/about-edb/publications-stat/figures/index.html">https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/about-edb/publications-stat/figures/index.html</a>



## 3. Fulfilling the existing service gaps in ADHD support

- Early diagnosis of ADHD in preschool stage
  - More SEN children have been identified after the regularization of On-site Preschool Rehabilitation Services (OPRS) since 2018.
  - Provisional figure of newly diagnosed cases with ADHD was 2,422 in Child Assessment Centres (CAS) of Department of Health

Developmental conditions	Number of			
	newly diagnosed cases		sed cases	
	2020	2021	2022	
			(Provisional figures)	
Attention/Hyperactive Problems/Disorders	3 318	2 970	2 422	
Autism Spectrum Disorder	1 769	1 960	1 861	
Borderline Developmental Delay	2 512	2 652	2 105	
Developmental Motor Coordination	2 016	2 503	2 256	
Problems/Disorders				
Dyslexia & Mathematics Learning Disorder	477	331	229	
Hearing Loss (Moderate to Profound Grade)	51	63	50	
Language Delay/Disorders and Speech	4 570	5 401	4 147	
Problems		5 401		
Physical Impairment (i.e. Cerebral Palsy)	36	38	34	
Significant Developmental Delay/	1 482	1 722	1 527	
Intellectual Disability		1/22		
Visual Impairment (Blind to Low Vision)	11	11	6	

Note: A child might have been diagnosed with more than 1 developmental condition. Also, CAS does not maintain statistics on the developmental conditions by age.

Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services,





### 3. Fulfilling the existing service gaps in ADHD support

- Low entry requirement for wide range of target participants
  - Community-based training for students regardless their severity of ADHD
  - Students with less severe ADHD symptoms, who are usually not at the top priority in school-based training, may still have chances to receive professional intervention through our program



# Participants and Objectives

#### • Participants:

- Previously targeted for P.3 to P.5 students with ADHD diagnosis and their parents/ carers
- Targets expanded to P.1 to P.5 students since 2023

#### Program objectives:

- To enhance ADHD students' executive functioning for better management of their learning and daily living;
- To enhance parents' capability and home-based training skills to manage their child's ADHD-related problems.





## Program Structure – Overview

CPG-ADHD Program

Student Support	<b>Occupational Therapy Group</b>		
	Physiotherapy Group		
	Speech Therapy Group		
Parent/ Carer Support	<b>Psycho-education Mass Seminars</b>		
	Workshops		
	Parent Skills Training Groups		
	Group Consultation		
	Individual Consultation		
	Parent-child Interactive Activities Day		

## Program Structure – Student Support

## Executive Functioning Training for Students through Therapist's Groups



- Conducted by specialists (OT, PT, ST)
- Student group structure:
  - 1 screening session
  - 10 training sessions (1.5 hours/ session)



## • Systematic group structure

- Establishes clear group routines and rules
- Environmental modification, such as changes in seating arrangement, reducing distractions, optimizing work or education to have shorter period of focus with movement break etc.
- Clear learning objectives
  - Set clear, reasonable and specific expectation on learning objectives



#### Reference:

香港大學心理學系(2024)。「賽馬會喜躍悅動計劃」訓練資源套-支援有注意力不足/過度活躍症的學生。 香港都學心理學系及香港賽馬會慈善信托基金。 A-STEP, HKU LKS Faculty of Medicine Department and Pharmacology & Pharmacy, <u>https://www.astep.hku.hk/for-</u>

teachers-adhd-classroom-strategies





- Experiential learning through games and activities
  - Learning by Doing
  - Experiential learning as a 4-process:
    - Concrete experience (Doing)
    - Reflective observation (Observing)
    - Abstract conceptualization (Thinking)
    - Actual experimentation (Planning)

(Kolb's Learning Cycle; Kolb, 1984)

- Application to daily life scenarios
  - Focused and repetitive training in daily life application

Reference:

teachers-adhd-classroom-strategies

香港大學心理學系(2024)。「賽馬會喜躍悅動計劃」訓練資源套-支援有注意力不足/過度活躍症的學生。 香港都學心理學系及香港賽馬會慈善信托基金。 A-STEP, HKU LKS Faculty of Medicine Department and Pharmacology & Pharmacy, <u>https://www.astep.hku.hk/for-</u>





## Behavioural modification

- Building positive behaviour
- Reducing negative behaviour
- Clear and specific expectation on positive behaviour
- Token system
- Continuous reinforcement scheme
- Pair with self and peer evaluation and therapist's feedback

Reference:

香港大學心理學系(2024)。「賽馬會喜躍悅動計劃」訓練資源套-支援有注意力不足/過度活躍症的學生。 香港都學心理學系及香港賽馬會慈善信托基金。 A-STEP, HKU LKS Faculty of Medicine Department and Pharmacology & Pharmacy, <u>https://www.astep.hku.hk/for-</u>

teachers-adhd-classroom-strategies



## Visual support

- Effective strategy to compensate deficit of auditory memory and working memory of ADHD students
- To enhance self-regulation

ability



Reference:

香港大學心理學系(2024)。「賽馬會喜躍悅動計劃」訓練資源套-支援有注意力不足/過度活躍症的學生。 香港都學心理學系及香港賽馬會慈善信托基金。

A-STEP, HKU LKS Faculty of Medicine Department and Pharmacology & Pharmacy, <u>https://www.astep.hku.hk/for-teachers-adhd-classroom-strategies</u>





• EF cards version 1.0







• EF cards version 2.0











## Program Structure – Parent/ Carer Support

#### **Comprehensive support to parents and carers**

• Equal emphasis on supporting parents/cares of ADHD students



• Conducted by specialists (EP, SW, OT, PT, ST)



# **Evaluation Methodology**

#### Student Support

- Pre-Post Test
- Standardized test
- Observation checklist
- Parent's questionnaire
- Parent's qualitative feedback

## Parent/ Carer Support

- Participant's questionnaire
- Participant's qualitative feedback
- Participants' feedback on program
- Over 96% participating parents are satisfied with the program in past 4 years (2020-2024)
- Over 91% participating parents have reported their <u>child's</u> ADHD-related problem has been improved in past 4 years (2020-2024)



# Occupational Therapy Self-Management Intervention for Students with ADHD

Mr Eddie LUI, Occupational Therapist of Heep Hong Society





## Content

- A. OT Self-Management Intervention
- B. Program Features & Structure
- C. Evaluation and Effectiveness



## **OT Self-Management Intervention**

#### **Common Problems in Students with ADHD**









# Insights from Research Findings

#### **Treatment for Primary school age**



(American Academy of Pediatrics, 2019; Gintner & Mooney, 2015; National Institute for Health & Care Excellence [NICE], 2019)
Learning EF Skills through Games

01

# **Therapeutic Games EF Concepts** Vague Hands-on experience Conceptual Multisensory Fun & Novel Boring



Learning EF Skills through Games

Sessions	EF Skills Focus
1-4	Attention Arousal Regulation Response Inhibition
5-6	Emotion Regulation
7-9	Planning & Organization Working Memory
10	Round Up + Post Ax

01





# Learning EF Skills through Games

#### Immediate Feedback and Rewards





# Daily Life Application of Learnt Skills



02

Daily Task: Packing School Bag

#### 做事四部曲



Adopting Occupational Performance Coaching

#### **Content:**

Home Program

03

- Use of Strategy cards
- Expectation Adjustment
- General Handling Techniques
- Individualized Action Plan



\*(Chien, Lai, Lin, & Graham, 2020) \*(Graham, Rodger, & Ziviani, 2009)

Individualized Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM)\* Action Planning adopting OPC

 COPM: Client-centered outcome measure assessing a person's self-perception of performance in everyday living tasks

	兒童的日常活動/行為表現	重要性	兒童表現	滿意度
	动的施涎,棺時開始工作	8	4	4_
	庙計劃:住田野镇家的石市	10	2	2
3	乾姆纳格的自己的能	8	4	4
ų	北部的动动人院,将-约.电-思大	01	3	4
¢.	递到国新成松林的调整和解			

\*(Law et al., 2005)

03



#### Individualized COPM Action Planning adopting OPC

03



Checklist (Visual Cue) + Token System



#### Individualized COPM Action Planning adopting OPC

03



#### Checklist (Visual Cue) + Token System





- 1. Students' Performance in Group sessions
- 2. Daily Functional Performance (Rated by parents)
- 3. Parents' Satisfaction
- 4. Parents' Qualitative Feedback





#### Continuous Clinical Observation on EF components Overall mean difference (post minus pre)



n=35





#### Executive Function Questionnaire for Students n=11







#### Changes in Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM) Rating



Changes in COPM Change in Satisfaction (Post score - pre score)

Post and pre score = Total performance or satisfaction scores/ number of problems





#### Parents' Heartfelt Messages to Children and Self



HEEP HONG SOCIETY

#### **OT Summary**



#### Physiotherapy (PT) Exercise Intervention: I-CARE Executive Functional Training for ADHD Children

Ms Annie O, Physiotherapist I of Heep Hong Society





• ICF framework & exercise for ADHD

• PT exercise intervention: I-CARE for ADHD





# **ICF Framework for ADHD**



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Bölte, et al (2018) ; Schiariti et al (2018)



# EF Skills and Physical Activities

EF Skill	Application in competition
Inhibition	<ul> <li>Not be disturbed by surrounding sounds</li> <li>Keep focusing on teammate's signal</li> </ul>
Emotion control	<ul> <li>Keep calm when win/lose point or be provoked</li> </ul>
Working memory	<ul><li>Remember different skills taught by coach</li><li>Remember the rules</li></ul>
Goal-directed persistence (self dialogue)	<ul> <li>Self-encouragement to keep up</li> </ul>
Organization	<ul> <li>Observe and analyse the strength and weakness of own team and competitor</li> <li>Adjust the strategies accordingly</li> </ul>



#### **ADHD & Gross Motor Performance**

#### **Clinical Findings by PT of Heep Hong Society:**

- Some ADHD children have weaker Gross Motor performance including
  - -Balance
  - -Upper Limb Manipulative Skill
  - -Motor Planning & Coordination
- Retained Primitive reflex



### **ADHD & Gross Motor Performance**

Research compared Gross Motor performance of ADHD children with their peers in same age group

#### 1) Chen et al.(2010)

 ADHD boys aged from 7-10 years old performed significantly poorer in Locomotor Skills, Object Control Skills and Gross Motor Development Quotient GMDQ

#### 2) Lee et al.(2024), Pranjic et al.(2023), Pitcher et al.(2003)

- High rates of comorbidity between ADHD and DCD (Developmental Coordination Disorder)
- It co-occurs in approximately 39-50% of cases



# Physical Exercise Helps ADHD

#### 1) Zang et al.(2019)

- Systematic reviewed 14 studies and meta analysed the effect of physical exercise for total of 574 ADHD children aged 8-16 years
  - Physical activity group: 276 participants
  - Control group: 298 participants
- Results showed
  - Physical exercise significantly improved anxiety and depression, thought and social problems as well as any aggressive behaviour

#### 2) Den Heijer et al. (2016)

- Systematic reviewed 25 articles and analyzed the acute and chronic effects of physical exercise on cognitive and behavioural functions in children with ADHD
  - Cardio Exercise VS Non-cardio Exercise
  - Cardio Exercise has both acute and chronic effect in cognitive, behavioural & emotion





#### **PT Exercise Intervention**







- An exercise intervention developed by PT team of Heep Hong Society since 2005
- I-CARE  $\rightarrow$  Integrative training of

Coordination,

**A**rousal/Attention

**R**egulation and

**E**xecutive Function

- Combine with Body & Mind training
  - Body---build up fundamental physical condition
  - Mind---empower self awareness & regulation skill



### PT Assessment for ADHD





# PT Assessment for ADHD

- Standardised tests
   BOT-2
- Observation checklist
  - Sensory Systems
  - Primitive Reflex

DOI	17	)	Omen	Test Date	Year	Month	Day
Bruininks-Ose of Motor Proficien	retsky Tes CV, Second E	t dition	Preferra	elened Drawi Throwing Hi Preferred	ng Hand: and/Arm: Foot/Leg	Right Right Right	Left Left
Robert H. Bruininks, PhD,	5 Brett D. Bruin	inks	Norms	Used: 🔲 I	female E	Male 🔳	Combined
raminer Name			Scho	el/Clinic			
Total Point II	Scale Score St	nnierd Score 60 n = 50, 50 = 10	erfidence teter (Tables C Band	al: 90% ar 95% 1-C.4)	Hile Rank	Age Equity. (Tables	Descriptive Category
Fine Metro Parisino		3					
2 Fine Metor Integration Fine Manual Control	-						
Manual Dexterity							-
Coordination Manual Coordination							
Bilateral Coordination	-					_	
Body Coordination	Sum			-			
å Strength Pue-up: Kne ful Strength and Apility	-	:		-		-	
Total Mot	sun	Sim					
Total Motor Composite		Standard Score	Score Barrislence Interval: 99% or 95% (Score Dates C.3. C.4)		6 or 05%	Mile Rank (Tables	Description Category
SHORTFORM Finit-age Knew Fa			1				
Complete Form During the testing section, recard the coarrient memory and the testing section, correct each item is section to the testing section of the section of the testing section of the section of the section of the testing section of the section of the section of the for existing section of the section of the section of the Under Ticker Section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section of the section of the section of the section of the lines Section of the section	a performance on eac core to a point score totals, convert the be the appropriate coul in record the total in th fore on the cover pa	fr Junn. Davi string the Junn ter of the Altin the Powe con- case e Outl Colu p. Featl the	et Form ig the testing set band on page II the testing setse reson table poor costs. Then, etc re. y, add the item p y, add the item p	inen, recent the let, convert each ded. For iterature of the point sco met scores for all forth Score point	enertinee's por tern cow score rolling two told t in the approp 14 Short Form 4 The appropri	formation on each to a point score to, convert the be paint eval in the ritery, and recor-	in Sheart Form using the that of the two Point Score of the total in why close.
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# PT Assessment for ADHD

Clinical tests

#### Executive Functions

(Modified from BRIEF<sup>®</sup>2 (Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function<sup>®</sup>, Second Edition)

A) Inhibit, B) Emotional control,

- C) Working memory, D) Initiation,
- E) Organization of materials
- Executive Skills Questionnaire

(From the book: Smart but scattered by Peg Dawson)

parents and children's EF function at home







# A. Arousal Regulation

#### **A. Arousal Regulation**

- Use arousal chart as visual support
- Introduce various performance
  - in different arousal levels
- Beware of own state of arousal (before class and during activity)
- Regulate to optimal as needed





# **A. Arousal Regulation**

• Up-regulating exercise

#### (Black to Green Zone)

- > Fast pace
- Crossing mid-line
- Contralateral coordination;
   Asymmetric & Combined movements
- Novel tasks

Cross Leg Crawl (forward and backward) Down-regulating exercise

#### (Red to Green Zone)

- Slow pace
- Isometric proprioceptive input
- Focus on breathing



Arm Pressing (edge of chair/ own knee)



### **A. Arousal Regulation**

Beware of own state of arousal level at the beginning of class (Video)







- Attention: HERE & NOW
  - ADHD children spend most of their time living in the past or future
- Physical Exercise is the best way for them to experience HERE & NOW





Yoga exercise with audio attention (Video) (Close eyes, Listen to clap sound and Change movement)







Aerobic exercise with YouTube Video (Video)







- Aerobic exercise
  - At moderate level of intensity over a period of time (> 20 min, at least 2-3 times/week)
    - Consume excess energy & boost attention
  - Encourage parent for habitual aerobic activities
    - Swimming, cycling, dancing, etc.



#### C. Motor planning & coordination exercise

- Motor planning & coordination exercise
  - With challenging elements that require logical thinking and task analysis
    - Train the ability to plan appropriate actions and control body movements
- Children with Predominantly Inattentive Presentation may need more preparation training in core strengthening and balance exercise



#### C. Motor planning & coordination exercise

Respond to called number (Video)




#### **D. Executive Functional Training**

#### Inhibitory & Emotion Control

Working Memory

#### Restructuring & Management Capabilities

- Response inhibition
- Emotional control
- Sustained attention
- Working memory
- Task initiation
- Planning/ prioritization
- Organization
- Time management
- Goal-directed persistence
- Flexibility
- Metacognition





• Using EF cards as visual cue





Inhibition & Emotion Control (Video)





#### Home Exercise and Application

- Practise it at home with parents/sibling
- Notice which EF card is helpful for better performance and share it with peers next session
- Integrate into daily routine
  e.g. check arousal level before and during homework → do regulation exercise if needed

#### <u>協康會</u>物理治療部。 兒童家居訓練記錄表











- Post group Evaluation form from parents
  - Parents learned some skills and can apply them into daily life
    - e.g. timer; arousal level chat; EF card
  - Both child and parents have some changes
    - e.g. time management; task initiation; emotion control; way of communication





- Build up new habit and integrate into daily life
  - Action with mindfulness
  - More self-awareness and regulation
  - Regular exercise





- Enhance child's selfconfidence
- Facilitate good rapport between child and parents
  - conscious
    communication





# ADHD Training Groups -Social Communication

Ms Vivian LAU, Speech Therapist of Heep Hong Society





#### Content

- Social communication skills of ADHD students
- Social communication training groups:
  - $\,\circ\,$  Training goals and strategies used
  - Effectiveness and progress
  - $\circ~$  Parent involvement and feedback



## ADHD and Language Impairment

• Comorbidity of ADHD and Language impairment ranges from 8% to 90% depending on the source and type of sample (Brown, 2009)

Deficits in Receptive Language	Deficits in Expressive Language
Following directions	Recalling and formulating sentences
Understanding concepts and spoken paragraphs	Producing coherent and organized narratives
Semantic relationships	Retrieving words in conversation
Understanding different sentence structures	Expressing emotion

(DaParma, Geffner, & Martin, 2011; Geffner, 2006)



## **ADHD and Social Communication**

- Even for ADHD-only children, evidence shows a strong association between ADHD and communication disorders
- The executive function deficits result in challenges in:
  - Monitoring of communication and comprehension
  - Discourse organization and cohesion
  - Inferencing
  - Pragmatic interaction
  - Problem solving

(Westby & Watson, 2021)





#### **ADHD and Social Communication**

- Problems in social communication
  - Poor perspective-taking
    - Difficulty in reading essential verbal, non-verbal and situational cues to respond with social expectations
  - Lack of self-directed speech
    - Difficulty in modulating emotional reactions and controlling interpersonal behaviours
  - Poor emotional regulation
    - Worsening peer relationships



#### Research studies on Social Skills Training

• Researchers explained that the social problems in ADHD resulted from inconsistent performance rather than a lack of social knowledge (Aduen et al., 2018)

 In a systematic review, the treatment efficacy of stand-alone social skills training was found to have inconsistent results (Willis et al., 2019)



#### **Research studies on Social Skills Training**

- Social communication difficulties in ADHD children were found to be a downstream consequence of poor inhibitory control (Rints, McAuley, & Nilsen, 2015)
- Improvements in social skills were observed in studies targeting cognitive training for executive functions (Hannesdottir, Ingvarsdottir, & Bjornsson, 2017; Qian et al., 2017)
- Providing increased reinforcement and reminders of appropriate social behaviour were recommended to enhance the treatment efficacy of social skills training (Mikami, Smit, & Khalis, 2017)



# **ADHD Social Skills Training Groups**

- Features of our groups:
  - Integrate executive functions (EF) within social skills training
  - Encourage children to apply EF tools in different social contexts
  - Provide immediate reminders and feedback to reinforce positive behaviours
  - Promote learning through GAMES and EVALUATION





# **Training Areas and Goals**

- Auditory Attention and Comprehension
  - Attentiveness to auditory information
  - Listening to and processing information using "ears, eyes and brain"
- Conversational Skills
  - Timing of speech
  - Turn-taking in conversation
  - Topic maintenance





# **Training Areas and Goals**

- Emotion Regulation
  - Awareness of self-emotions
  - Use appropriate methods to regulate emotions
- Perspective Taking
  - Reading non-verbal communication cues
    - (e.g. posture, eye contact and facial expressions)
  - Awareness of others' thoughts, feelings and intentions
  - Regulating self-behaviors
- Problem Solving
  - Identify appropriate solutions to problems





- Session starts with
  - Activity to recall skills taught in the previous session
  - Quick review on homework





- Introduce 1-2 EF tools
- Relate the tools to social communication skills
- Visual Strategies
  (EF tools, emotion regulation & social skills)





- Game-based activities
- Application of EF tools and social communication skills



Practice & Application

- Reinforcement System
  - Token economy
  - Individual goal











- Self-evaluation
- Peer Evaluation





- Homework
  - Worksheet
  - Home plan
  - Activity suggestion

Generalization





## Parent Involvement

- Briefing session before groups start
  - Explain the aims & structure of the group
- Education after each session
- Individual Consultation
  - Offer feedback addressing parents' concerns





- Pre-tests and post-tests using an observation checklist were conducted to evaluate students' progress
- Feedback from parents was collected during debriefing sessions and through questionnaires





Treatment outcome



📕 Pre 📕 Post





- Results
  - Improvements were observed in both EF skills and social communication skills
  - The most significant improvement was observed in inhibition
    - Reduced incidents of interrupting & excessive talking
    - Learned to think before speaking
  - Improved attention during the sessions
  - Increased awareness of one's emotional state and use of regulation strategies





- Effectiveness of strategies
  - EF tools
    - Children were able to understand the concepts and showed increased awareness in applying the tools in social contexts
    - The tools served as a common language to provide quick reminders and helped build self-directed speech for self-regulation
  - Game-based activities & reinforcement
    - Better engagement
    - Enhanced motivation and promoted positive behaviours
  - Self & peer evaluation
    - Enhanced awareness of individual performance
    - Improved self-confidence and peer relationships





## Parents' feedback

- Children showed improvements in various aspects
- Children tried to apply the skills learned at home and in school settings
- Parents learned skills to manage children's behaviour and facilitate communication skills

XX在姑娘帶領的課堂中,改善了 與人相處的問題,更明白到合作 的重要性,學到了相處的技巧。

XX能應用法寶在學校作上課之用,嘗 試用令人舒服的方式和同伴互相合作 小朋友上堂後語言的溝通和表達能力都 有進步,情緒比未上堂前也改善了,會 控制自己的情緒,沒那麼容易發脾氣。

> 自從上堂後,加深了對ADHD小朋友 的了解,讓我掌握了管教小朋友的技 巧,獲益良多,也大大改善了親子關 係,令我唔再對小孩的未來徬惶。





#### **PARENT/ CARER SUPPORT**







#### Figure 2.

Expanded model illustrating key variables affecting the relationship between child behaviour problems and parental stress (dotted lines indicate potential moderated effects).



(Hastings, 2002)

#### Children aged 5 years and over and young people

These recommendations, covering children aged 5 years and over and young people, are for healthcare professionals with training and expertise in diagnosing and managing ADHD. March 2018 – medicines used for treating ADHD did not have a UK marketing authorisation for children aged 5 years or under (off-label use). See <u>NICE's information on prescribing medicines</u>.

- 1.5.10 Give information about ADHD (see <u>recommendation 1.4.3</u>) and offer additional support to parents and carers of all children aged 5 years and over and young people with ADHD. The support should be <u>ADHD</u> focused, can be group based and as few as 1 or 2 sessions. It should include:
  - education and information on the causes and impact of ADHD
  - advice on parenting strategies
  - with consent, liaison with school, college or university (see recommendation 1.4.12)
  - both parents and carers if feasible. [2018]

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: diagnosis and management, NICE guideline, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence,

https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng87/chapter/Recommendations#managing-adhd





- Positive parenting skills
- EF strategies for children with ADHD
- Handling skills of children's behaviour, etc.

#### **Comprehensive Support for Parents / Carers**

• Conducted by specialists (EP, SW, OT, PT, ST)


### Mass Seminars and Workshops

### 講座內容

### 第一節:AD/HD孩子的行為管理及正向教養

- 何謂AD/HD
- AD/HD行為管理策略
- 父母管教技巧及正向教養

#### 第二場:溝通篇

- 認識AD/HD兒童的語言溝通表現
- 介紹AD/HD兒童語言溝通的訓練目標及相關的訓練策略
- 建議以提升執行功能為基礎的語言溝通訓練活動

#### 第三場:運動篇

- 認識如何透過運動改善AD/HD兒童的專注力及執行功能 (ICARE 綜合協調訓練策略)
- 了解不同類型AD/HD兒童的訓練方法及實例分享
- 了解如何將訓練融入日常生活

#### 第四場:學習篇

- 講解影響AD/HD兒童學習表現的因素
- 介紹改善兒童學習表現的方法(個人、活動、環境)
- 提供針對不同類型AD/HD兒童的執行功能的訓練方法

#### 第五場:經驗分享篇

- 以過來人身份,分享AD/HD患者的成長經驗及感受
- 與同樣患有AD/HD的媽媽如何相處,及解決親子之間 的衝突
- 家長如何幫助自己緩和AD/HD帶來的影響



# Parent Skills Training Groups

- 6 sessions of parent group
- Adopted the EF framework of Barkley (2012)



Session format:

- Lecturing
- Experiential activities
- Self-reflection
- Case study
- Discussion
- Video modelling



# Parent-child Interactive Activities Day

- Application of EF skills (students) and parenting skills (parents) in daily life contexts
- Conclusion and celebration



# Effectiveness

Parents have increased confidence in handling their children's ADHD-related problems	Over 91%
Parents have acquired knowledge and skills to handle child's ADHD-related problems	Over 97%

Average % in past 4 years (2020-2024)





### **CONCLUDING REMARKS**



### **Casebook on Intervention Strategies**





# Limitations and Future Direction

- Short intervention period
- Lack of school involvement
- Insufficient resources to strengthen multidisciplinary support
- Insufficient individual consultation for more in-depth support
- More research element is recommended





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