

Diagnosis	Shared ADHD Symptoms and Features	Differential Symptoms and Features	Screening and Assessment Tools
Anxiety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fidgeting - Inattention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elevated worry - Avoidance activities that elicit worry/fear - Physical symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SCARED - GAD-7
Depression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inattention - Difficulty completing tasks - Low motivation - Sleep disruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low mood - Anhedonia - Sadness - Appetite change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PHQ-8/9
Specific Learning Disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic difficulties - Difficulty completing academic work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficulty with specific academic skills (e.g., learning to read) as opposed to global academic concerns - Symptoms only present with educational activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Psychoeducational evaluation - Consultation with School
Autism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inattention - Interruption - Talkativeness - Fidgeting like movements - Social difficulties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of interest in social interaction - Difficulty with reading social cues - Movements are repetitive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Autism Spectrum Rating Scale - ASD evaluation
Intellectual Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inattention - Academic difficulties - Hyperactivity - Disruptive behaviors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significantly low cognitive abilities and adaptive functioning (ADLs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Psychoeducational evaluation
Oppositional Defiant Disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficulty following instructions - Noncompliance - Hyperactivity - “Annoying” behaviors - Aggression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intentional and often planful defiance, rather than impulsivity or distraction - “Annoying” behaviors are deliberate - Arguing - Blaming others - Seeking revenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vanderbilt Comorbidity Scale* w/ Interview
Pediatric Bipolar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impulsivity - Hyperactivity - Excessive Talking - Rapid thinking - Not finishing tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mania is a sudden onset - Marked change from typical functioning - Alternates with depressive states opposed to a persistent state of symptoms from an early age with ADHD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Mania Rating Scale for Parents** - Mood/Symptom monitoring
Substance Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fidgeting - Inattention/concentration difficulty - Emotion dysregulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficulty quitting a substance - Tolerance - Dependence - Shared symptoms are associated with substance use or withdrawal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CRAFFT
PTSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fidgeting / Restless - Inattention - “Zoning out” - Emotional outbursts - Sleep disruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exposure to potentially traumatic events - Nightmares - Flashbacks - Increased negative emotions - Avoidance of tasks associated with trauma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child PTSD Symptom Scale - Childhood and Adolescent Trauma Screen (CATS) - Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC)

*The Vanderbilt ODD comorbidity overidentifies children with ADHD. A positive score warrants further interview, a negative score effectively rules out.

**Positive score on the Childhood Mania Rating Scale indicates need for further assessment, negative score can often effectively rule-out mania.

Adapted from: American Academy of Family Physicians, National Research Network (2019)