



Behavioural Presentations

What is Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)?

Frequent and persistent pattern of angry/irritable mood, argumentative/defiant behaviour, or vindictiveness are the essential features of ODD. It is possible that the child may display the behavioural features of the disorder (i.e., arguing, actively defiant or refusal to comply, assigning blame to others) and not display problems associated with negative mood, although typically both features are present. The symptoms of ODD are part of a pattern of problematic interactions with others.

What is Conduct Disorder (CD)?

CD involves the repetitive and persistent pattern of behaviour in which the basic rights of others or major age-appropriate societal norms or rules are violated. The behaviours are categorised into four main categories, including: aggressive conduct; threatening physical harm to others or animals; deceitfulness or theft; and serious violations of rules. The disturbance of the behaviour causes clinically significant impairment in social, academic, or occupational functioning.

Children with ODD and/or CD:

Children who experience behavioural concerns may demonstrate the following symptoms:

- Inability to regulate their emotion, which often presents as externalising symptoms (physical symptoms of anger and resentment, harsh verbal exchange).
- Inability to regulate their behaviour and exhibit behaviour dysregulation, such as temper tantrums.
- May frequently engage in excessive and intentional arguing with adults.
- Often questioning rules and display an active defiance and refusal to comply with typical requests and rules.
- Difficulty accepting responsibility for their actions and may frequently blame others for their mistakes or misbehaviour/s.
- May often appear to be touchy or easily annoyed by others, however, will engage in deliberate attempts to annoy or upset people
- May engage in revenge seeking behaviours when they feel a sense of injustice.

The symptoms outlined above can occur to a degree in some individuals without a disruptive/conduct behavioural diagnosis – the pervasiveness of the symptoms is key in determining whether a diagnosis is present. It is not uncommon for the client to show symptoms only in one environment/setting, which is most typically (when only in one environment) only in the home setting.

Where can I find more information? (Click for each link)

- [Raising Children Network](#)
-