

Developmental Disorders

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Acronyms for developmental disorders are being added to the medical lexicon at an alarming rate. Some of the more common ones include ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder), ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorders), PDD (Pervasive developmental Disorders), and SPD (Sensory Processing Disorder).

Current research indicates that these disorders have become epidemic. In 1999, the California Department of Developmental Services did a study specifically on autism and issued a report indicating a 273% increase in autism rates between 1987 and 1998.

In general terms, it is understood from a holistic point of view, that the immune systems of these children have been affected in a deep way. Although there is much evidence that points to the excessive number of vaccines administered in this country, for the purpose of this article, let it suffice to say that the causes are not well understood.

Children with these conditions not only experience varying degrees of difficulty with communication, social interaction, repetitive behaviors, and self-control but their entire system is affected adversely. There are often symptoms of gastrointestinal inflammation and accompanying food sensitivities. Connective tissue laxity produces problems with muscle tone, posture, coordination and autonomic reflexes. In addition there may be secondary diagnoses of depression, anxiety, tics, or insomnia.

Homeopathy addresses the whole person and stimulates the immune system in specific ways to restore balance. In her book *Impossible Cure: The Promise of Homeopathy* (R. L. Ranch Press, 2003) Amy Lansky tells the story of her autistic son Max and his cure with homeopathy. For more information, visit: www.impossiblecure.com

Homeopathy can produce transformative changes in children with developmental disorders. It not only addresses the social, learning, and behavioral problems typical of these children's conditions, but it also helps their acute and chronic health problems in a global way.

A homeopathic prescription is individualized to a child's specific needs. Just as no two snow flakes are alike, every child experiences a totality of symptoms in a unique way. That is why there is not just one homeopathic medicine recommended for these diagnoses. A homeopath's job is to match the child's situation to one of over two thousand medicines. The homeopathic interview reveals individualizing characteristics on the physical, mental and emotional levels that narrow down the choice of possible homeopathic remedies. Even more than the information parents and teachers may give, hearing the child talk about what fascinates him or simply observing his gestures and body language will lead a homeopath to the right medicine. Homeopaths understand that working with these children requires a flexible approach to case taking tailored to each child's personal communication style.

Homeopathy is gentle medicine for super sensitive children. Because the ingredients in homeopathic medicines are so highly diluted, allergic reactions, sensitivities, or even side effects are extremely rare. And for children who are picky about what they will eat or drink, a remedy can be administered without detection.