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Could ADHD Increase Your Child's Risk of Suicide?

Your elementary school-aged child's risk of death by suicide is very, very low. But a recent study, published in the journal *Pediatrics*, indicates that children affected by ADHD may have a slightly higher risk for suicide than their peers without ADHD. Researchers are working to determine why that could be and think it may be related to impulsivity and the lack of availability of child mental health resources.



The study led by Arielle H. Sheftall, PhD, found that children who died by suicide more often had been diagnosed with ADHD than their peers, but less often had a diagnosis of depression than other young people. These children were also more

likely to have some type of problem within their family relationships, including arguing with family members. [Continue reading.](#)

Are You Sure It's ADHD?

ADHD is a complex disorder, with symptoms that are often shared by other conditions. You may have experienced some concern or doubts when you or your child was first diagnosed with ADHD. How can you be sure you are addressing ADHD?

It is important to have a thorough evaluation, including a physical exam, for ADHD and co-occurring conditions. Part of the evaluation will be to consider possible conditions that may explain the symptoms that are present and rule them out or identify them as co-occurring with an ADHD diagnosis. [Read more.](#)



See 9 Common Coexisting Conditions with ADHD



Co-occurring conditions are psychiatric disorders that occur in addition to ADHD. The existence of two or more disorders can complicate the symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment process. Many children have at least one other condition to deal with along with ADHD. [See slideshow for more.](#)

Is Private School the Right Choice for Your Child?

Should you enroll your child who has ADHD in a private school? Many parents may consider this option when their children are struggling in school, hoping that smaller classrooms and more personalized attention will make a difference for their children.



“Private schools are in a unique position to support students with ADHD and learning disabilities,” Susan H. Biggs, EdD, says. “Since the eligibility laws that govern special education in public schools do not bind these schools, they can be creative in how they support students. They can focus on the culture of the school and construct a climate that works well for students who learn differently.” [Read on.](#)

ADHD *in the News*

- Ouch! Avoiding failure leads to missed opportunities for children with ADHD
- Girls with ADHD often struggle with defiance, conduct issues
- Ten-year trend shows improved care for low-income ADHD patients
- Doctors' notes: New brain imaging data points to better treatments for autism and ADHD

Read these and other articles in the [ADHD in the News weekly digest](#).



Do you have questions about ADHD? Are you looking for help with a particular problem such as treatment options, or are you looking for information on helping your child be successful at school?

The NRC hosts an online community to discuss ADHD and related topics. This free resource is a place where participants can post questions and connect with other members of the ADHD community for answers. NRC health information specialists are also on hand to provide clarification, evidence-based information, and further insights.

Ask your question now. Go to [ADHD Questions & Answers](#).



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