

MYTHS TOLD BY --- "PROFESSIONALS"

These are statements made by a relatively small percentage of school staff, doctors, and other professional people about those who specialize in ADD/ADHD. These individuals make these statements in the hope that you will accept their "wisdom" as better than that of anyone else. But, most of all, their goal is to distract you from seeing their own poor performance in educating or helping your child. They are also trying to persuade you that help from other professionals is not needed and/or is a bad idea. Pretty unbelievable, huh?

1. "He/she diagnoses everyone with ADD/ADHD."

Most who specialize in ADD/ADHD are keenly aware of mis-diagnosis. In fact, they typically make a special effort to consider other possibilities. Those that know me, know this is false.

2. "He/she is not qualified to diagnose ADD/ADHD, Learning Disabilities,etc."

Again, most who specialize in ADD/ADHD are experienced as well as licensed to diagnose any mental health problem. My LCSW State license qualifies me to make these diagnoses. In the past 12 years, I have had over 300 hours of training about ADHD, LD's, and related problems. I've spent 6 years of my career working in special education school settings.

3. "People in private practice will say anything for a price". Or, "They'll say anything because they get paid a lot".

Make your own judgment. If I evaluated your child, do you feel I "only said what you wanted to hear"? Most in this field are dedicated to "tell it like it really is".

4. At the school meeting, when the name of the ADD/ADHD specialist is mentioned, school staff look at each other, roll their eyes, "sigh", or "gasp". Their distain is clear.

Think about how unprofessional this is! Not to mention childish.

5. We don't have to accept "this" evaluation or recommendations.

Technically, true. But, who gains and who loses by taking this position?

6. Their evaluation isn't valid. Only "psychological testing" is valid. Only a psychiatrist can diagnose ADHD.

Again, most of those who specialize in ADD/ADHD are well qualified. Traditional "psychological testing" has been deemed invalid and inadequate for diagnosing ADHD. Tell them they need to read the AACAP standards for diagnosing ADHD.

7. They never observed in the classroom, so how do they know anything.

Research has proven that classroom observation is **not** a valid way to identify ADHD. Teachers (because they spend months observing kids) have the best information. That's why I gather as much teacher input as I can!