

SEND Newsletter

SPRING 2 EDITION

ADHD / PDA

ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) is a condition that affects attention, activity levels and impulse control, making it harder for some children to focus or follow instructions.

PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance) is a profile within the autism spectrum. It involves high levels of anxiety around everyday demands, which can lead to avoidance when tasks feel overwhelming.

More Advice...

- **Wirral Local Offer Website**
The Wirral Local Offer sites list services, groups and information for SEND families across health, education and community support.
- **ADHD WISE UK**
To help you understand the 'why' behind ADHD behaviours, turning that insight into a constructive path forward. Supporting ages 6 through to adulthood, we empower the whole circle—families and professionals included—to thrive together.
- **The Positivitree**
<https://thepositivitree.com/parents/#contact>
A local support and advice for parents, support groups and training opportunities to help with a variety of SEND needs
- **Witherslack Group:**
<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/advice-and-support/adhd/>
Support and advice for parents, guidance documents and podcasts to support families and carers for a variety of SEND needs,

Top Tips

- Keep routines predictable – clear, consistent routines help children feel safe and reduce anxiety.
- Give simple instructions – break tasks into small steps and give one instruction at a time.
- Offer choices – where possible, give two options (e.g. "Do you want to start with homework or reading?") to reduce pressure.
- Reduce demands during difficult moments – when emotions are high, focus on connection first and return to expectations later.
- Use calm, neutral language – a calm adult helps a child regulate their emotions.
- Build in movement breaks – regular physical activity can help children with ADHD release energy and refocus.
- Praise effort, not just outcomes – noticing small successes builds confidence and motivation.
- Prepare for change – talk through changes in advance and use visual supports if helpful.
- Create a quiet space – a calm area can help children regulate when they feel overwhelmed.
- Remember behaviour is communication – children may show stress or anxiety through their actions, not their words.