Abridged Executive Control Skills Checklist

Compared to peers, this child....

Initiating Action

Begins homework/jobs with little or no prompting Devises solutions to solvable problems; doesn't just "hope they'll go away" Sets a specific time to act (Says "I'll do it after school", & does) Independently pursues hobbies and activities of personal interest About Average Lags Behind

Flexible Thinking

Can analyze a situation from multiple perspectives before taking action Able to have fun with available toys/diversions Can adjust to atypical behavior in a friend ("Justin's grumpy because he's sick") Transition times rarely incite tantrums/excessive anxiety About Average Lags Behind

Sustaining Attention

Can adequately block distractions when needed
Can tolerate boring or repetitive activities
Can read a book or listen to one being read
Doesn't make you feel rushed to finish a conversation before s/he "spaces out"

About Average Lags Behind

Organization

Consistently brings all homework/school notices home Keeps personal belongings organized and accessible Bedroom basically neat; messes confined, not "chaotic" Uses school book bag/locker effectively About Average Lags Behind

Planning

Is rarely short of time to complete projects
Is able to coordinate multi-step projects in order, i.e. draw, cut, paste
Considers consequences of actions
Notices factors that could impact plans, i.e. checks weather before dressing

About Average Lags Behind

Working Memory

Able to retain information long enough to apply it to new learning challenges Can remember and talk about what was learned in school that day Recalls procedural steps, doesn't "stare blankly" when asked to "get started" Is comfortable accepting 'memory responsibilities" (i.e. chores, dues, projects)

About Average Lags Behind

Self-awareness

Picks up on important social cues such as taking turns during play with peers Uses appropriate vocal volume in conversation Rarely "crosses over the line" of acceptable behavior Accurately attributes the reactions of others to his/her own behavior

About Average Lags Behind

Regulating Emotions

About Average Lags Behind

Able to shrug-off or quickly recover from minor disappointments Seldom overreacts to words or behavior of peers Able to use imagination, reason or logic to cope with adversity Emotions do not overwhelm reasoning skills or impair problem-solving

Excerpted from No Mind Left Behind: Understanding and Fostering Executive Control -The Eight Essential Brain Skills Every Child Needs To Thrive by Adam J Cox, PhD. For complete test - Order Nowl