ALDOGOS HAVE ADD

KATHY HOOPMANN



ALDOGS HAVE ADHD KATHY HOOPMANN



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To Janet Eiby, who understands

INTRODUCTION

Children on the Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) spectrum can have challenges in three main areas:

- 1. They may find it hard to keep focused.
- 2. They may be hyperactive.
- 3. They may be impulsive.

Of course, anyone can find it hard to focus, or can be hyperactive or impulsive occasionally. The term ADHD is only used when these traits are exhibited so often that lives are disrupted.

But as you read, remember that not every child with ADHD has all the traits mentioned in this book. There are ADHD kids who are very active, and those who are not. Some may be outgoing, and others very shy. But all children with ADHD need understanding and love. They need specialist help, which may include medication and behaviour management.

Most of all, children with ADHD need people who believe in them, people to build their self-esteem, and people to go on life's journey with them, wherever it may lead.



Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder may be detected soon after birth.

Children with ADHD may not sleep as much as their parents would like.

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Their first steps aren't steps... they are an attempt to escape,

** ** **

because the world is meant to be explored.





They know what they want and they want it NOW.

When an opportunity presents itself, they go for it,





and may dive straight into a situation without thinking through the consequences.

Those with ADHD can be fearless,



but unfortunately, their bodies are not so invincible.



They get lost easily,



they're always losing things,





and often can't find what is right in front of their noses.





When playing, they may not be sure how to take turns, or how to share,

and can be a bit rough at times.



They don't do this on purpose and often feel bad about it later.

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And yet, they have loving, caring natures,





and they can be so much fun!



Those with ADHD can be distracted by things other people don't notice,



and their priorities may differ from those around them.



Their minds work better when their bodies are in motion and they find it hard to sit still for long.



They are easily bored, and when that happens, their brains fog and their eyes close all by themselves.

"Somewhere else" can seem so much more interesting



and they dream of escaping to better things.

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Their senses can get overloaded with everything going on,



so they might dash from one task to the next...

...without finishing anything.





and even if there are instructions, they may not know how to follow them.





It's not that they can't learn things. They can!


But their brains don't always know how to retrieve the knowledge just learnt!



And there's no doubt they are very bright,

but not everyone appreciates their type of intelligence.



So although they try hard to be good,



those in charge are not always impressed with their behaviour,



and they are often labeled as clowns.



Time can pass without them noticing,

"I'm supposed to be where? When?" and they can end up in the doghouse without knowing why.



People keep saying, "You can do better if you try harder," but it's simply not true.

Being very sensitive, they sometimes feel sad





because they want to be like everyone else, but they just can't.

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Life is so darn frustrating!





When things get too much, they might have a meltdown.



Parents may not always understand their ADHD children, but they still love them heaps.

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Besides, the chances are, someone else in the family will behave exactly the same way.

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ALC

When those with ADHD find something they like, their concentration is fierce,





and their dedication to the task is wholehearted.

Their minds work differently from their peers.



They see the "big picture" easily,



and may find solutions where others don't think to look.



Their creativity is legendary!





As children with ADHD grow older, they can do anything they want,



and they are always willing to try new things.



When life seems the same, day after day,







When they find a job they love, their amazing sense of intuition,





their drive to achieve in their interest areas,

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and their bright, inquisitive natures,

mean they can reach the very top of their chosen field,





Sure, they may not worry about their looks, and they have their own way of doing things,



but that's fine, because if everyone was the same, life would be very boring indeed.





When those with ADHD have love and support,



good friends who accept them just the way they are,





encouragement to pursue their dreams,





their potential is *limitless!*

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