

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders

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Definition:

- No consensus
- Disturbed behavior is a social construct
- Criterion ?

IDEA definition:

- ED is a condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects educational performance:

- An inability to learn which cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory and health factors
- An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers

- Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances (depression, physical symptoms)
- The term includes schizophrenia
- Does not apply to children that are socially maladjusted

3 conditions must be met:

- **Chronicity**
- **Severity**
- **Difficulty in school**

Characteristics:

- Children with E/BD behave significantly beyond the norms of their cultural and age group
- Externalizing behaviors
- Internalizing behaviors

Externalizing behaviors:

- Antisocial, aggressive
- Manifestation in the classroom
- Aggressive – verbal abuse, vandalism, destructiveness, physical attacks on others
- Children with EB are seldom liked, difficulties to establish friendship

Internalizing Behaviors:

- Too little social interaction with others
- Anxiety, mood disorder
- Lack social skills to make friends, have fun, often retreat to dreams and fantasies
- less distracting to classroom teachers
- Danger of self-inflicted injury, suicidal behavior, starvation, etc.

Academic achievement:

- Usually perform one or two years below grade level academically
- Strong correlation between low academic achievement and behavioral problems

Intelligence:

- Difficult to say, whether the real intelligence is lower
- Behavioral problems has interfered with past opportunity to learn many necessary skills

Social skills:

- Great difficulties in making and maintaining friends
- Ability to develop and maintain personal relationships is an important predictor of future adjustment

Gender:

- Vast majority boys
- Girls:
 - Internalizing disorders
 - Anxiety, social withdrawal
- Boys:
 - Externalizing behaviors
 - Antisocial, aggressive