



Shine

Spina bifida • Hydrocephalus
Information • Networking • Equality
Formerly the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH)

Possible Implications of Hydrocephalus

- **Poor short term memory -**
Forgets immediate instructions, instructions need to be clear and simple
(one at a time and in writing).
- **Short attention span -**
Unwilling/ unable to work alone, concentration may be limited.
- **Lack of motivation/ initiation –**
Therefore need prompting to start an activity such as getting up, getting dressed etc
- **Poor concept of time –**
For example, would not understand what is meant if they were told “you have 15 minutes”, could be five hours to them, therefore may not cope with deadline (on forms etc).
- **Faulty spatial awareness/ visual perceptual difficulties –**
Can be present which leads to falls or difficulty in going down stairs, they may feel they are stepping into space, may have trouble crossing roads being unable to calculate the speed of traffic, difficulty with following directions (maps etc).
- **Difficulties in sequencing –**
Difficulty in grasping how a task should be done and in following a series of steps to complete a task successfully. Task needs to be broken down into very small steps, written down, recorded on tape and then practised repeatedly before it can be perfected.
- **Poor hand grip and hand-eye co-ordination –**
Making neat presentation very difficult.

- **Immature hand movements / poor fine finger dexterity** –
Difficult to perform tasks like peeling vegetables etc or handling things like rulers, pens and pencils.
- **Poor organisation skills** –
Colour coding may help.
- **Inability to generalise** –
Often interpret everything literally.
- **Varying level of performance** –
Have a good performance one day and poor the next.
- **Hypersensitive to noise** –
Laughter, clapping, lawnmowers, fireworks etc.
- **Poor understanding of language** –
But have a good auditory memory for speech, cannot work and talk at the same time.
- **Eager to please and suggestible** –
Will agree with last person's opinion and therefore very vulnerable.
- **Inability to function under pressure** –
Often resulting in panic attacks and anxiety, occur when faced with unexpected situations or in strange places.
- **Lack of confidence and self esteem** –
Could be masked by good verbal ability.
- **Problems with abstract thinking and conceptual thinking** –
See things as 'black or white', no middle ground or 'grey' area.
- **Tendency to exhibit unusual behaviours** –
Erratic mood swings etc.
- **Obsessive behaviours** –
Can manifest as fixations.
- **Difficulties with coping with changes** –
Changes from daily routines to environmental changes
- **Poor concept of budgeting**