

## TABLE 8.1 Representative Characteristics of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

### Inattention

- Fails to pay close attention to details, often makes careless mistakes
- Has difficulty sustaining attention to tasks or while playing
- Does not seem to listen when directly spoken to
- Fails to complete tasks
- Has difficulty organizing tasks or activities, schoolwork is often messy and disorganized
- Avoids or resists situations requiring sustained attention
- Loses items necessary for task completion (pencils, books, tools)
- Is easily distracted by extraneous stimuli
- Is often forgetful in daily activities

### Hyperactivity

- Fidgets or squirms, cannot sit still
- Demonstrates inability to remain seated for periods of time
- Runs or climbs excessively
- Has difficulty engaging in quiet leisure activities
- Talks excessively
- Is always on the go as if “driven by a motor”

### Impulsivity

- Blurts out answers
- Has difficulty waiting in line or his or her turn
- Interrupts or intrudes on others—buts into conversations or activities
- Acts without thinking, impatient

SOURCE: Adapted from the American Psychiatric Association, *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 5th ed. (Arlington, VA: Author, 2013).