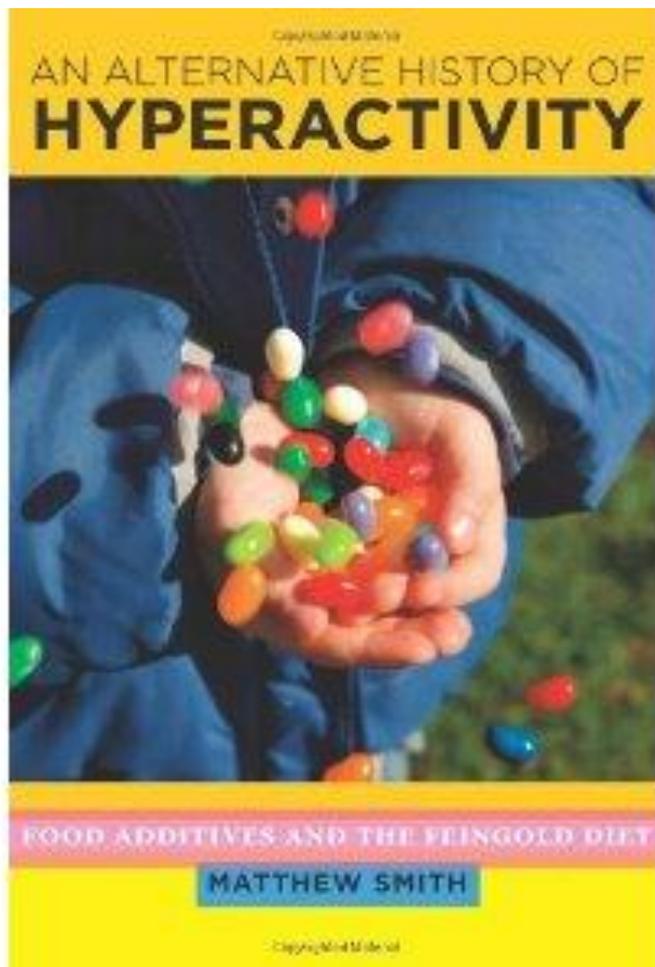


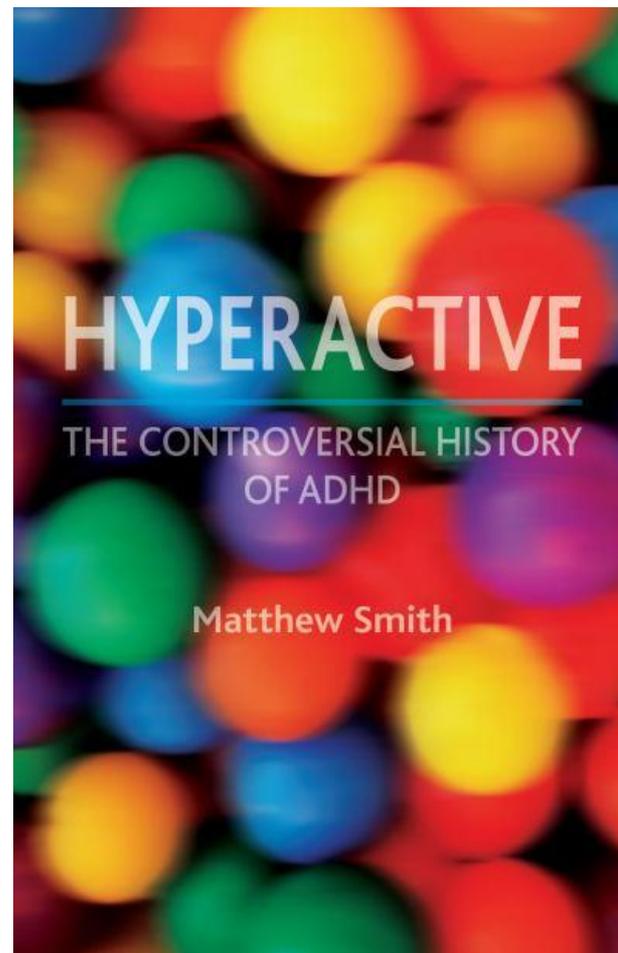


When Psychiatric Theory Meets Education: The Case of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

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Overview

- 1) Trace the educational and medical origins of ADHD in the USA and the UK
- 2) Demonstrate how explanations for such behaviour have simplified, resulting in attenuated understanding of ADHD
- 3) Suggest how the history of ADHD has implications for education policy

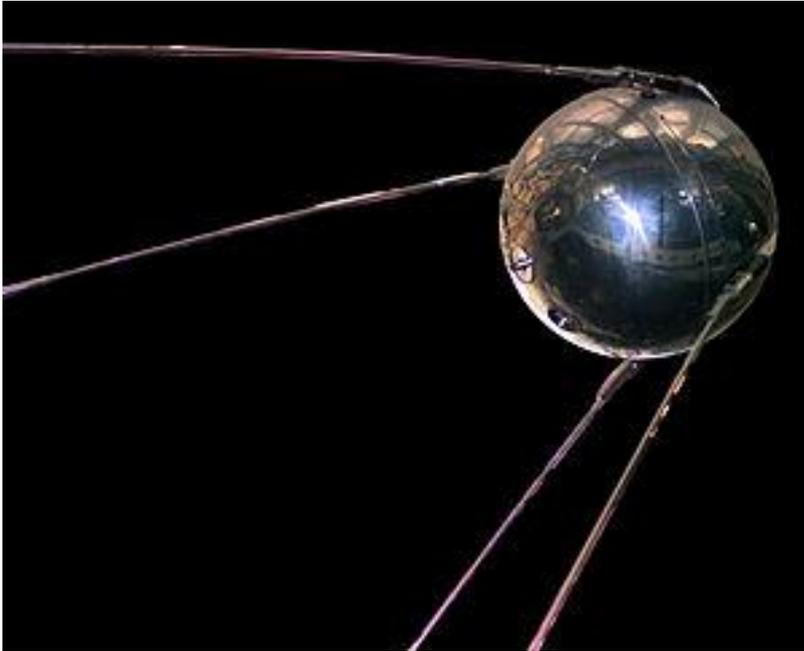


ADHD Today



- According to NHS, 2-5% of British schoolchildren have ADHD
- Recent Brazilian study suggests a 5.29% prevalence worldwide
- Icelanders, followed by Americans, are prescribed the most Ritalin
- Increasingly adults are also diagnosed with ADHD
- Some have suggested that drugs such as Ritalin should become available to all – steroids of the brain?

Soviet Launch of Sputnik 1957



Sputnik satellite
Launched 4 October 1957



Postage stamp of Laika, who was placed in
Sputnik II, launched on 1 November 1957

Crisis in American Education?

‘Brainpower is the resource upon which our nation must depend for its future economic and social health.’

‘This sphere [Sputnik] tells not of the desirability but of the URGENT NECESSITY of the highest quality and expanded dimensions of the educational effort’

‘The schools are letting us down at a time when the nation is in great peril. To be undereducated in this trigger-happy world is to invite catastrophe’.

National Defense Education Act (1958) - more \$ for core subjects, guidance counsellors and to prevent students from dropping out



—Dallas News Staff Photo.

SIGNALS FROM THE SATELLITE

Ham operator Roy Welch of Dallas, seated, plays a tape-recorded signal from the Russian space satellite for fellow hams at the State Fair of Texas. Welch recorded the signals on a receiver at his home.

Hyperkinetic Impulse Disorder - 1957



Bradley Home, Rhode Island



Pneumoencephalograph

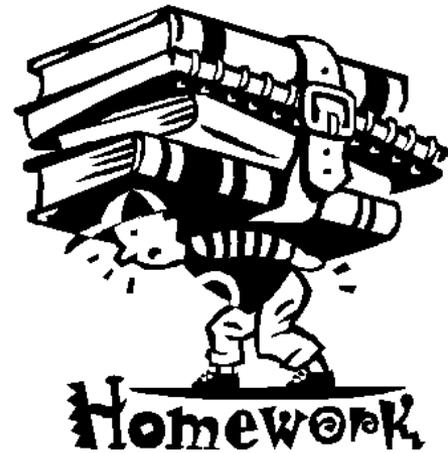
‘One striking point is that the characteristics which have been described are to some extent normally found in the course of development of children. That is, compared with adults, children are hyperkinetic, have short attention spans and poor powers of concentration, and are impulsive ...’ *Maurice Laufer and Eric Denhoff*

Education in the 1950s



‘In the crowded classroom of today, the teacher often become hostile to the child who, despite seemingly good intelligence, can not sit still, can not keep his mind on his work, hardly ever finishes the assigned task and yet unpredictably may turn in a perfect paper’

‘After Sputnik, the educators suddenly became infected with the idea that the day of reasonable [homework] assignments was over; from then on, students had to complete at least 100 problems per assignment in addition to increased reading assignments. Each instructor seemed to take the attitude that his assignments should occupy all of a student’s waking hours’ *Letter to Science*

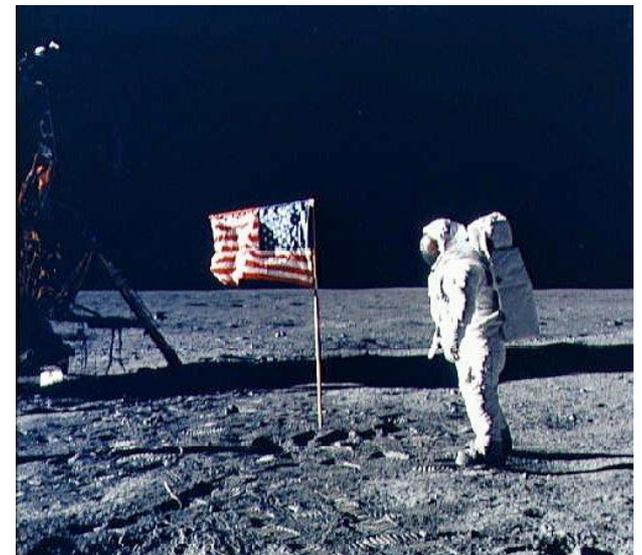


‘The school picture . . . in 1958, reflected almost entirely a tightening-up. But in some classrooms or communities, unfortunately, it was more like a cracking down. Concern about college admissions and general anxiety about America’s technical ability, as highlighted by the space race, combined to produce demands for higher standards of achievement in the upper elementary grades and in high schools. The switch has given new incentive to some youngsters, but, where misapplied, its sudden severity has put a strain on others who have been unable, through lack of adequate preparation, to meet the new demands... Even more significant to the average family, however, is the amount of attention being given to smoking out and stimulating the efforts of the under-achievers.’

Dorothy Barclay – education editor for the New York Times

Post-Sputnik Panic

when the bears
 hurled a spaceball
 into heaven
 from left field
 us got real scared
us expanded our spaceball program
us expanded our vocabulary too
us expanded everything
 'till us then got the man in the
moon
hah!
 us beat them bears
yep!
 us showed them bears
 a giant leapfrog for all
mankind
 by Steven A. Modée



Kellogg's Trio



THE "CLOCKWORK" KID...
Will he strike in your classroom?

...can set your watch by the "Kid". He comes to school the same time every day—five minutes late. Slouches in seat until ten. Then, he's into trouble with both hands. ...time at all he's the mainspring of a classroom rebellion. ...That's wrong? Simple. The "Kid" skips breakfast. ...every day. That always makes trouble. ...you have a student like the "Kid", send for one of the ...'s breakfast games. One of these games will start ...'s a good breakfast and that should make a happy ...'s in the classroom.

Kellogg's OF BATTLE CREEK
"Breakfast is Our Business"

WHICH BREAKFAST GAME WILL WORK IN MY CLASS?

Sound question. Kellogg has two games. One just right for your grade.

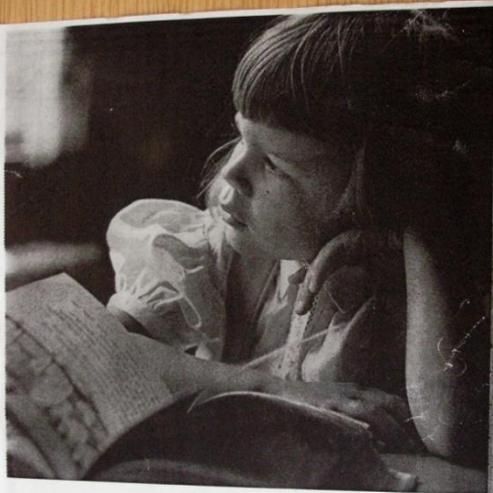
For kindergarten through grade 3, it's the Early Bird game. (The one that already has helped make 4,000,000 younger students easier to manage in class.)

For grades 4 through 6, it's the new Wild Bill Hickok game. (The one where Guy Madison and Andy Devine help bring law and order to your class.)

Ask for the right game for your room—we'll send it to you free. Badges, full-color wall charts, rules, and score cards—all free if you use the order blank on page 94.

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PAGE 51



WINDOW WATCHIN' WENDY
skips class right in her seat

...the time you spend with Wendy goes right out the window. She should get good grades. She doesn't. She dreams. ...what Wendy's real trouble is? Breakfast—she skips it every day. That's too bad. Because every student needs a good breakfast to get the most out of your instruction. ...studies at a leading Midwestern university conclude that school students make better scholastic records when they have a good breakfast every day.

...you have a student like Wendy, send for one of the breakfast games. One of these games will start her complete breakfast and that should make a happy ... in class.

WHICH BREAKFAST GAME SHALL I SEND FOR?

Good question. There are two of them. One just right for the students in your class.

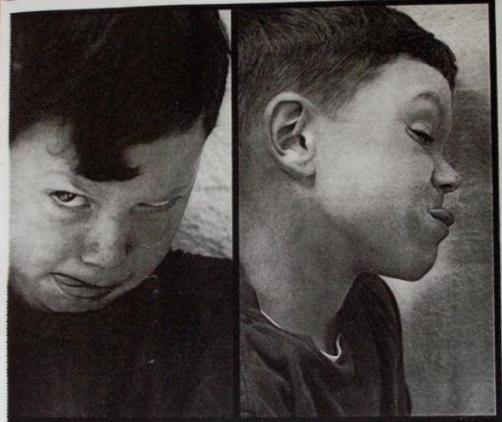
There's the Early Bird game for kindergarten through grade 3. That's the one that already has helped make 4,000,000 younger pupils better students.

Then there's the new Wild Bill Hickok game for grades 4 through 6. That's the one your students play with two of their favorite TV friends, Guy Madison and Andy Devine.

Order the right game for your room now. It's free—price, wall charts, score cards and rules—everything you need to make a game out of breakfast. Use the order blank on page 110.

Kellogg's OF BATTLE CREEK
"Breakfast is our business"

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE LEMON DROP KID



YES: Smart operator. Poor grades. Looks less. Strikes when your back is turned. Uses 7 faces to start class giggling. Becomes irritable, w late in morning. Nibbles lemon drops, licorice. questioning, confesses skipping breakfast.

HAT TO DO: Notify Kellogg's of Battle Creek at once. Ask for the right breakfast game for class. (Early Bird game for Kindergarten through 3; Wild Bill Hickok game for grades 4 through 6.)

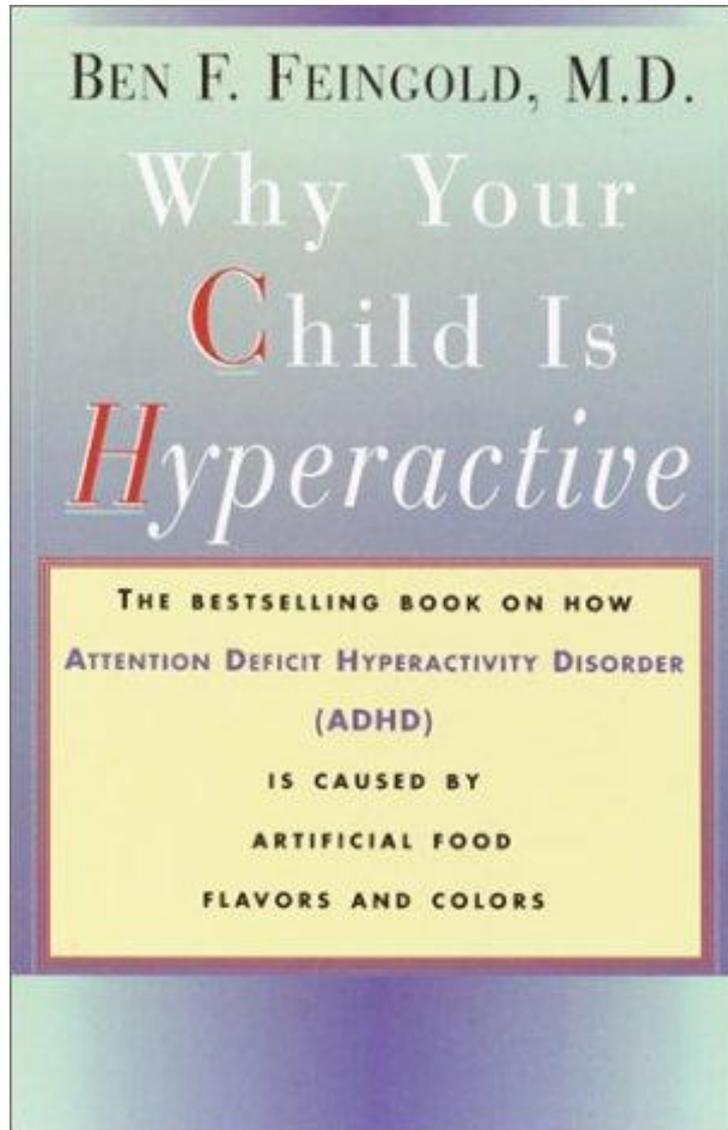
WARD: More than 4,000,000 students rewarded their teachers with better classroom Visor (and themselves with better grades) simply using better breakfasts.

HAT YOU GET: Everything you need to make a game out of eating a complete breakfast. Kellogg's will send you individual score cards, Teacher wall chart instructions and badging—everything your class needs to play the game. There's no charge. It's free if you use the order blank on page 102.



Kellogg's OF BATTLE CREEK

Other Explanations - The Feingold Diet



Utah mother ridding her kitchen of additive-laden food

UK Context

- Took much longer until concept of hyperactivity gained a foothold (1980s and 1990s)
- Other terms used: maladjusted and educationally sub-normal
- British psychiatrists generally much more pluralistic (accepting psychoanalytical, social and nutritional explanations)
- International Classification of Disease (ICD) or American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) had different diagnostic criteria

'Are the Americans ahead of the British, or behind them, or do their children's brains dysfunction in such an ostentatiously exotic transatlantic fashion that they require drug therapy' - *editorial in Lancet, 1973*

'British paediatricians, family practitioners and child psychiatrists are far less ready than their colleagues in the USA to diagnose a treat a syndrome of hyperactivity ... [but] British medicine and education will need to make it ... a higher priority' - *editorial in Lancet, 1986*

Recommendations

- The history of ADHD highlights that the disorder is not merely a neurological dysfunction, but has a wide range of aspects that need to be understood
- Perceptions of ADHD vary wildly from country to country and even from region to region (in the USA, for instance) – important to ask why
- Other important aspects to consider include changes in gender norms, educational practices, nutrition, physical activity, discipline, sleep habits, technology, the workplace and our expectations of children (ends vs. means)
- Therefore, drugs should be seen as a last resort, after all other factors are addressed
- There are key differences between diagnosing adults and children with psychiatric disorders - helping children is the aim, but do we always put their interests first?



Acknowledgements

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