

Portrait of Diane

Diane is a 46 year old working mom. She is an office manager for a small local business. Before having children, Diane worked as a media specialist at the local community college. Her child, James, now 16, was diagnosed with ADHD at the age of 6. James' first grade teacher noticed that he had difficulty paying attention in class, and recommended testing him for ADHD. Over the past ten years, Diane has had a mix of positive and negative experiences with the school system. When he was younger, James would act up in class, often jumping out of his seat and talking to the other children when it was inappropriate. Now that he is older, (and physically bigger) his behavior has become more of an issue at school. James is currently in 11th grade, but is testing at a 9th grade reading level. He tends to get frustrated if he doesn't understand something and he can become aggressive, often acting on his aggressions verbally and physically. He is then asked to leave class for long periods of time. On the days when James forgets to take his medication, his behavior is worse.

Diane knows that her son's success in school is important for the development of healthy self-esteem and confidence. For this reason, she works with his teachers and school personnel to keep them informed about his needs and progress. She currently helps other parents to be better advocates for their children by participating in a local support group. Diane has also actively researched medical and educational resources concerning ADHD, and she openly shares the information she finds with other parents and with members of James' IEP team. James is about to move on to college, and, as with most of the transitions in her son's life, she is anxious to find out how to help her son transition to this new environment. She wants to know what, if anything, she should prepare for and where to obtain the resources to support her son in this new environment.