

17th International Conference on Tourette Syndrome & Tic Disorders

TS-School
Ticschool
Athens



TS-school Athens | Tuesday, 20th May 2025, Eugenides Foundation

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

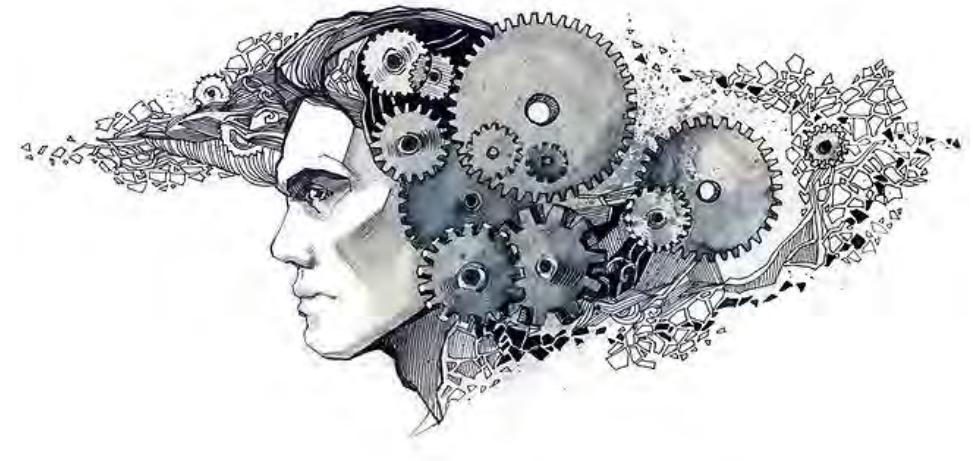
A frequent and complex comorbidity

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ADHD

A frequent and complex co-occurring condition



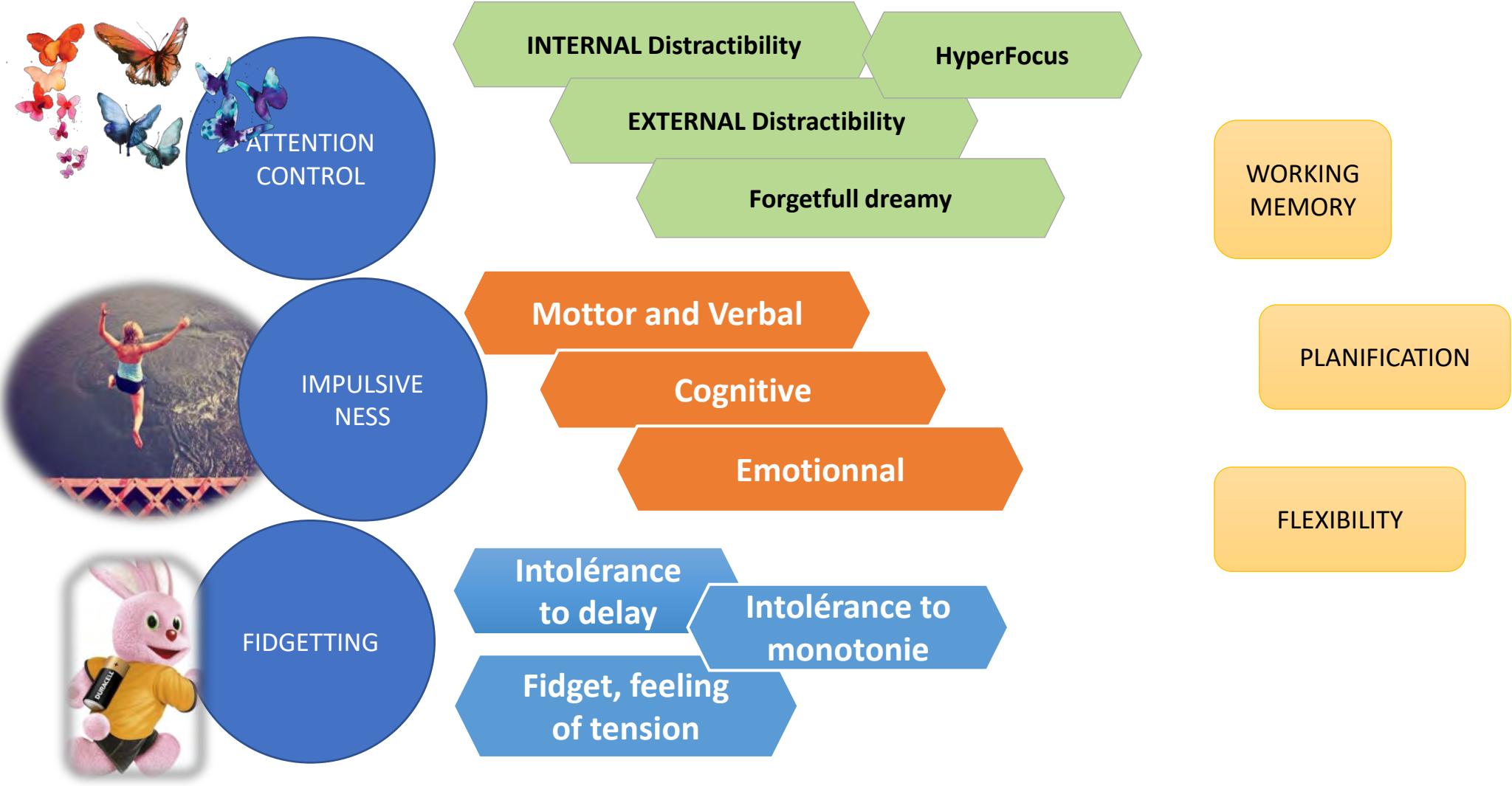
ADHD : Main facts , core symptoms , comorbidities



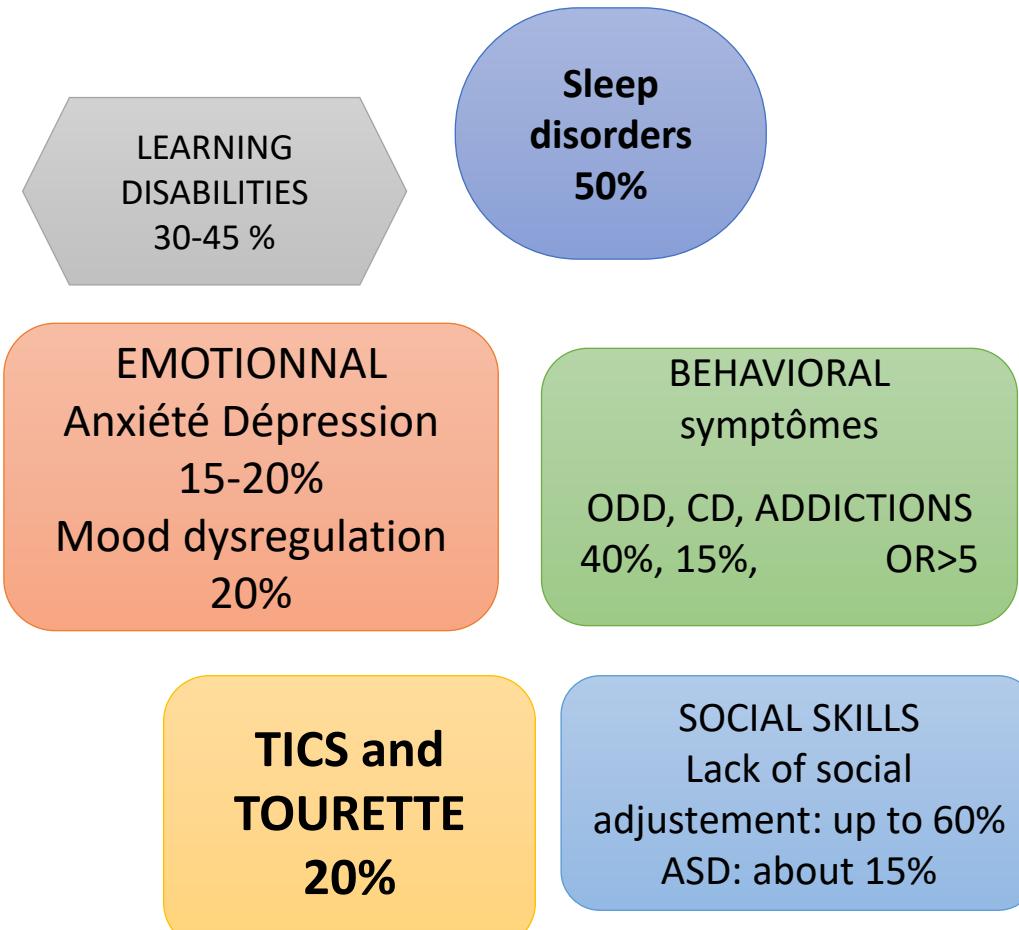
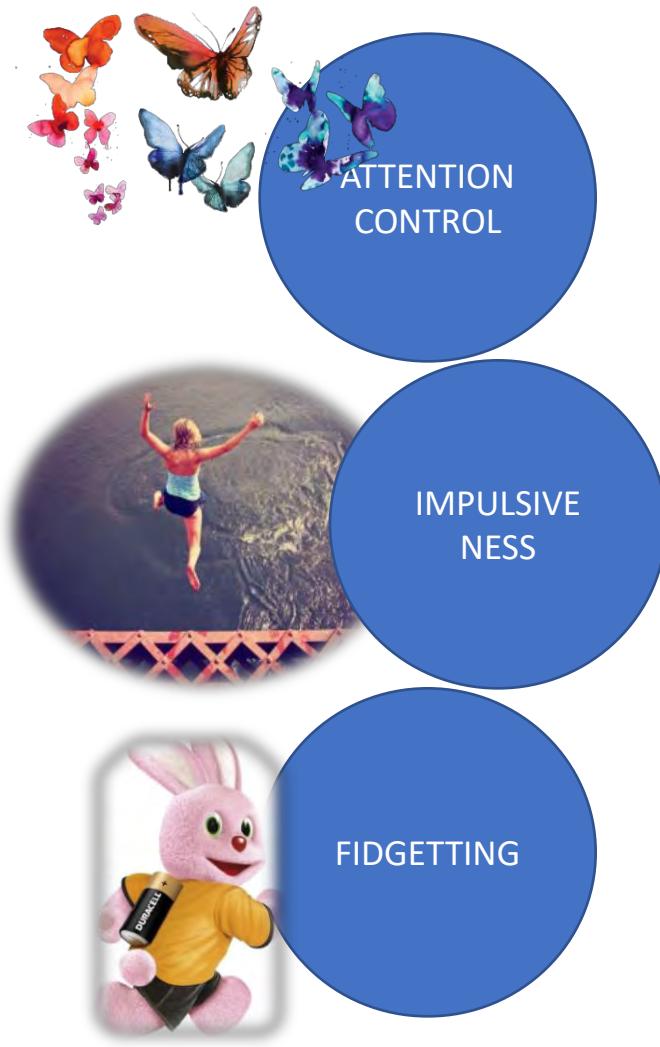
- Neurodeveloppemental disorder
- Prevalence : 5% school age children
~50% in clinical population
- Highly comorbid (85%)
- Gene X Environment model



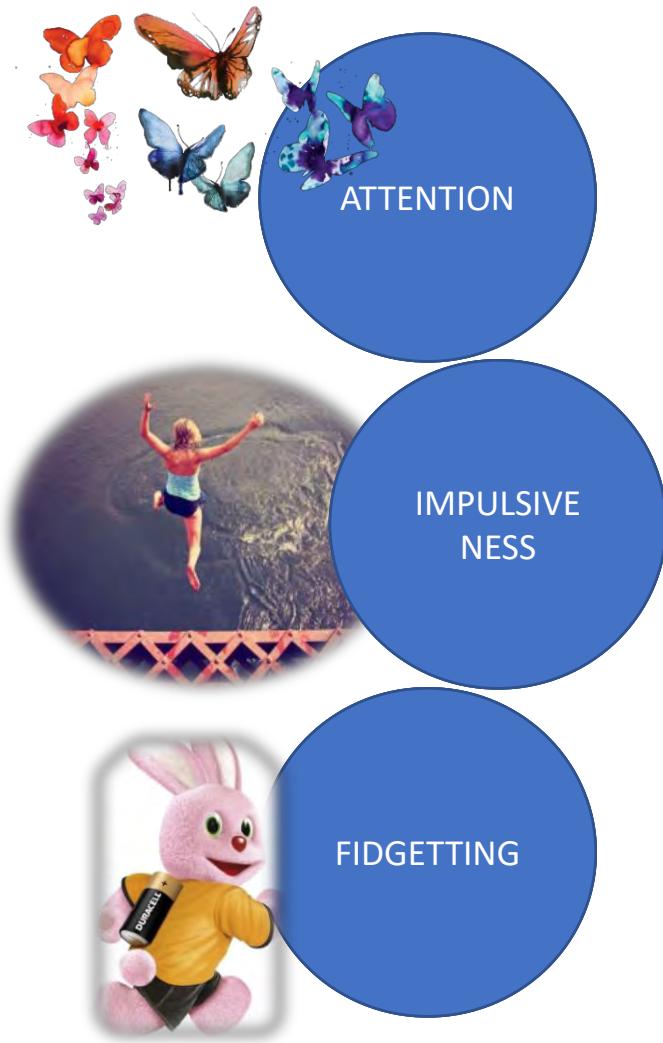
ADHD : core symptoms , clinical manifestations and neurocognitive profiles



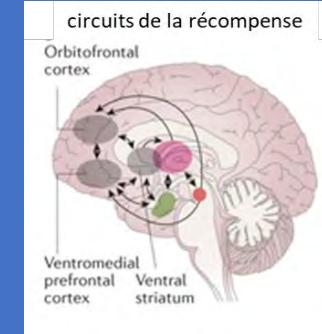
ADHD and comorbidities



ADHD and Temperment



- Preference for short term **reward**
- Aversion to delay
- Novelty seeking
- LACK of harm avoidance



Impact on
SOCIALISATION
LIFE
TRAJECTORY



Clinical presentation

● impulsif/hyperactif

- Unstable, fidgetty impulsivity, like on motor run
- Speaks a lot or impulsively
- Impossible to delay
- Hates boredom
- Quickly angry



● inattentive

- Unexplained school difficulties
- Dreamy, in his own world
- Poor planner even to brush his/her teeth
- Forgetful, doesn't answer, loses his stuff
- Avoids long tasks



● Combined

- A bit or a lot of both !



Criteria

- Starts before 11YO
- 6 major symptoms of inattention
and or 6 major symptoms of hyperactivity
(ADHD-RS is an interesting tool to assess and monitor symptoms)
- Not consistent with the developmental age!**
- Symptoms in at least 2 different environments
- Impact on everyday life
- Not better explained by another condition
(let's say more or less)



AETHIOLOGY & PHYSIOPATHOLOGY



Explantation models

- Hypo activation of the frontal lobe and dopamin related executive deficit (Barckley)
- Aversion to delay and reward circuitry impairment model of Sonuga Barcke
- Maturation delay model of Shaw
- Default mode Network dysrégulation model
- Iron depletion and sleep disorder model
- The Anxiety coping model

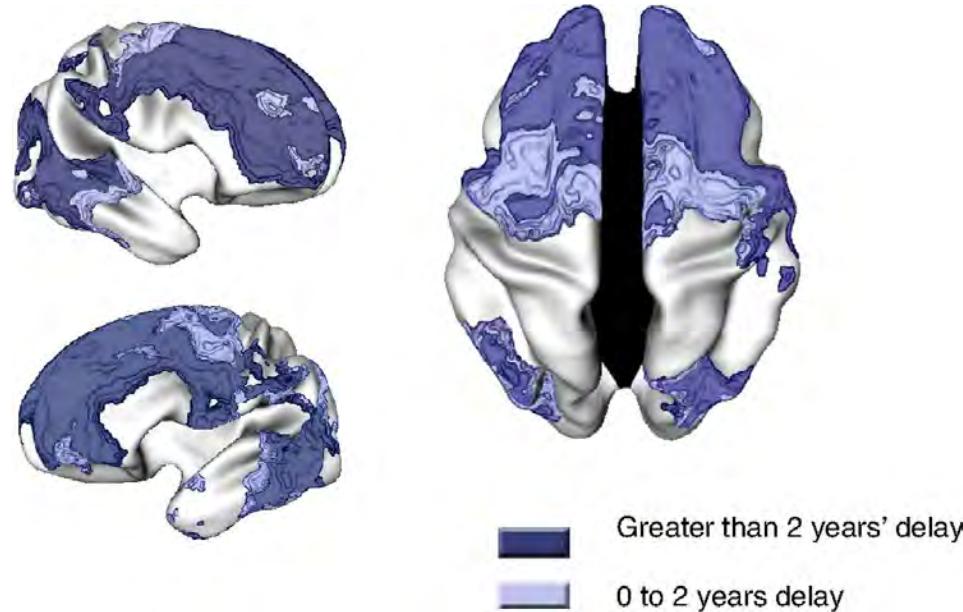
→ Probably ALL of above hold a part of the truth



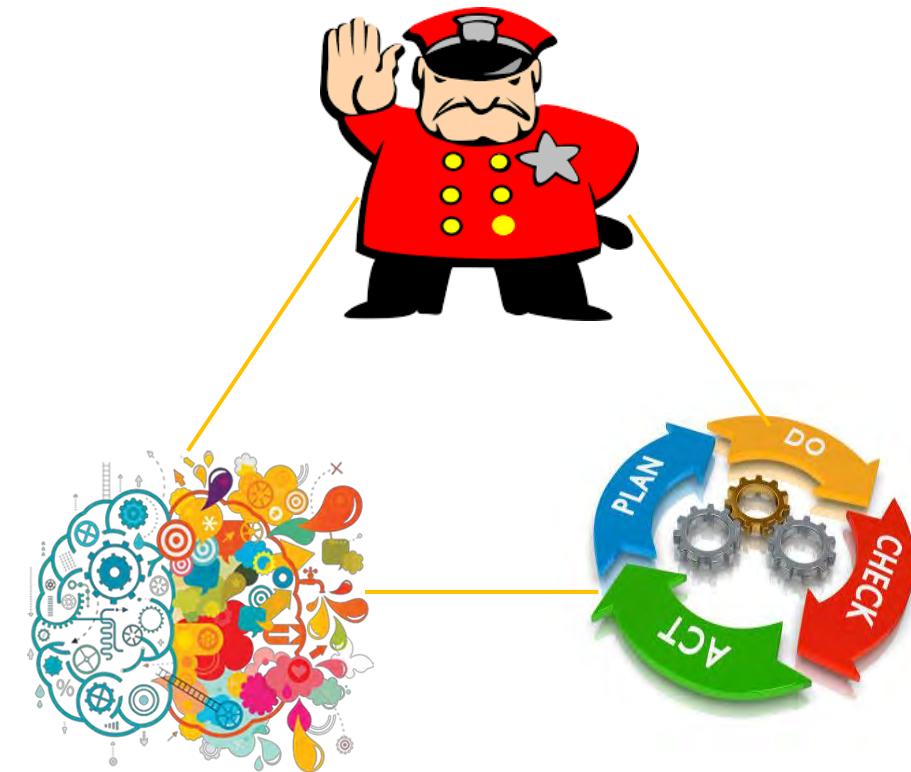
Etiologies

- Neurodevelopmental delay

Shaw et al. 2007



About 3 years delay

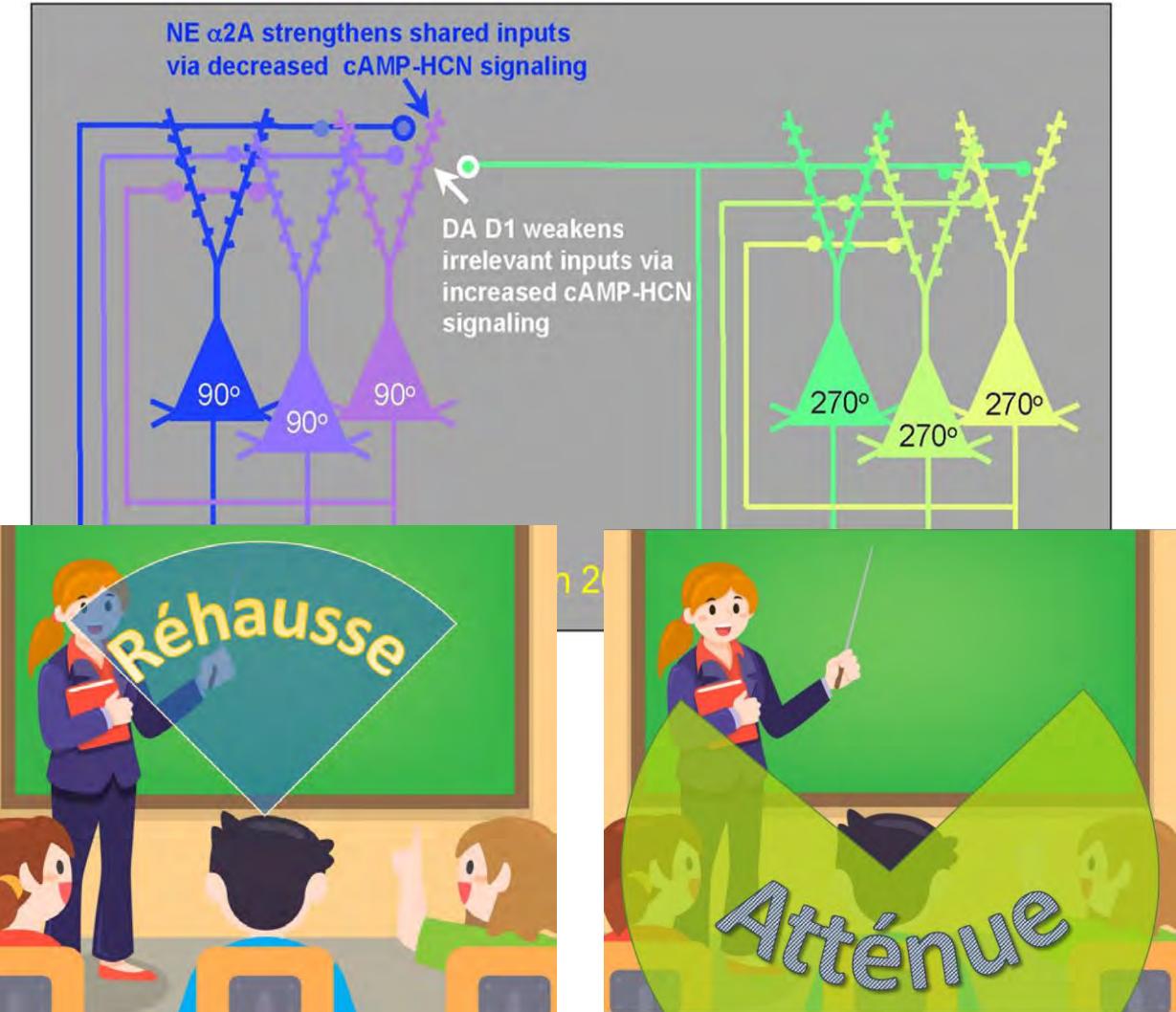
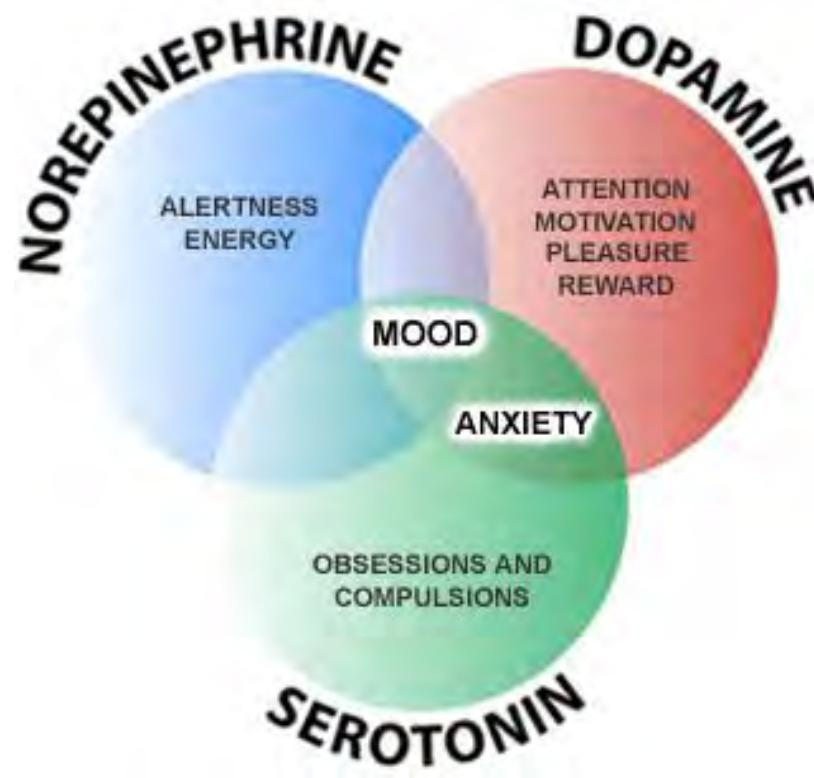


- EXECUTIVE DYSFUNCTION



Etiologies

Role of Norepinephrin and Dopamine



Etiologies

GENETICS

Twin studies, Adoption studies, CNV studies =>

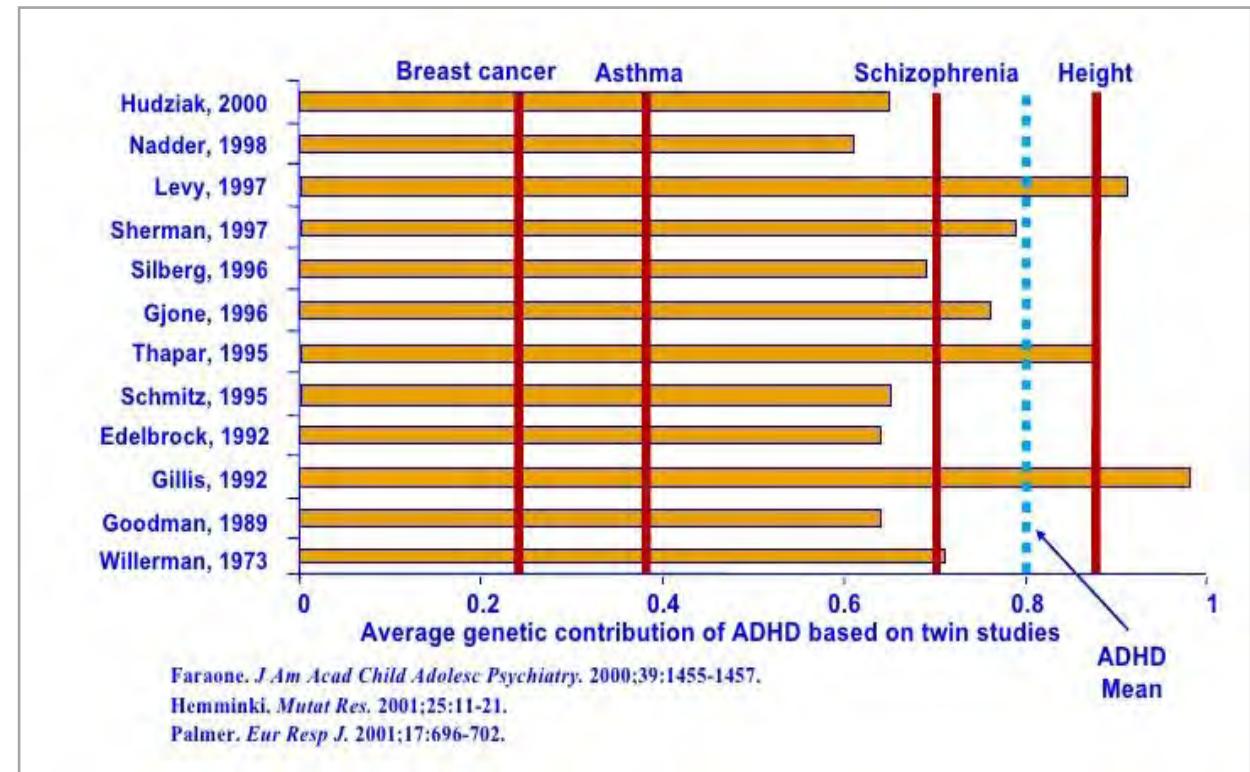
Gene Environment interaction model

Heritability 75%

Environment factors: Tabaco? Prématurity? Child Care?

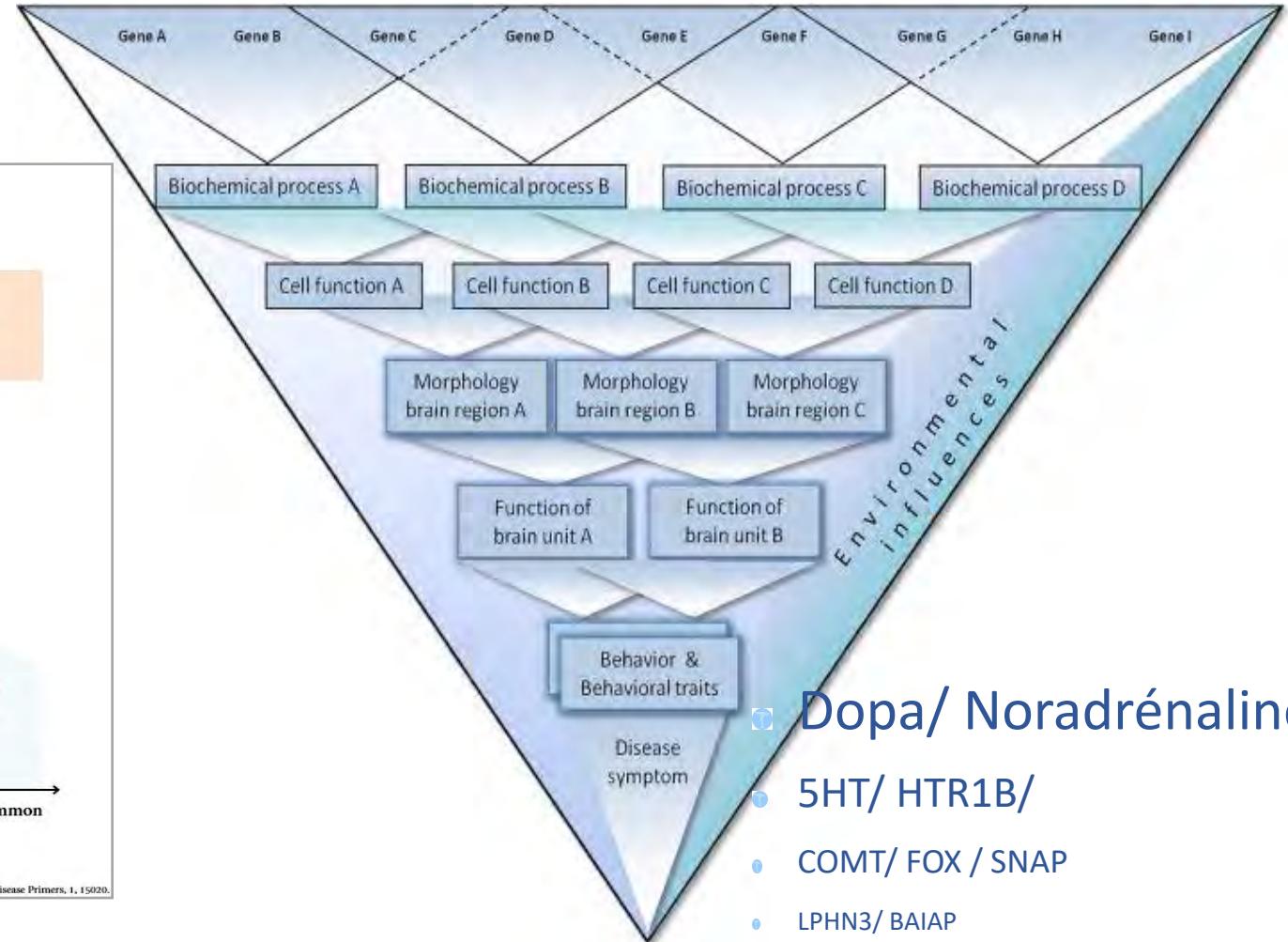
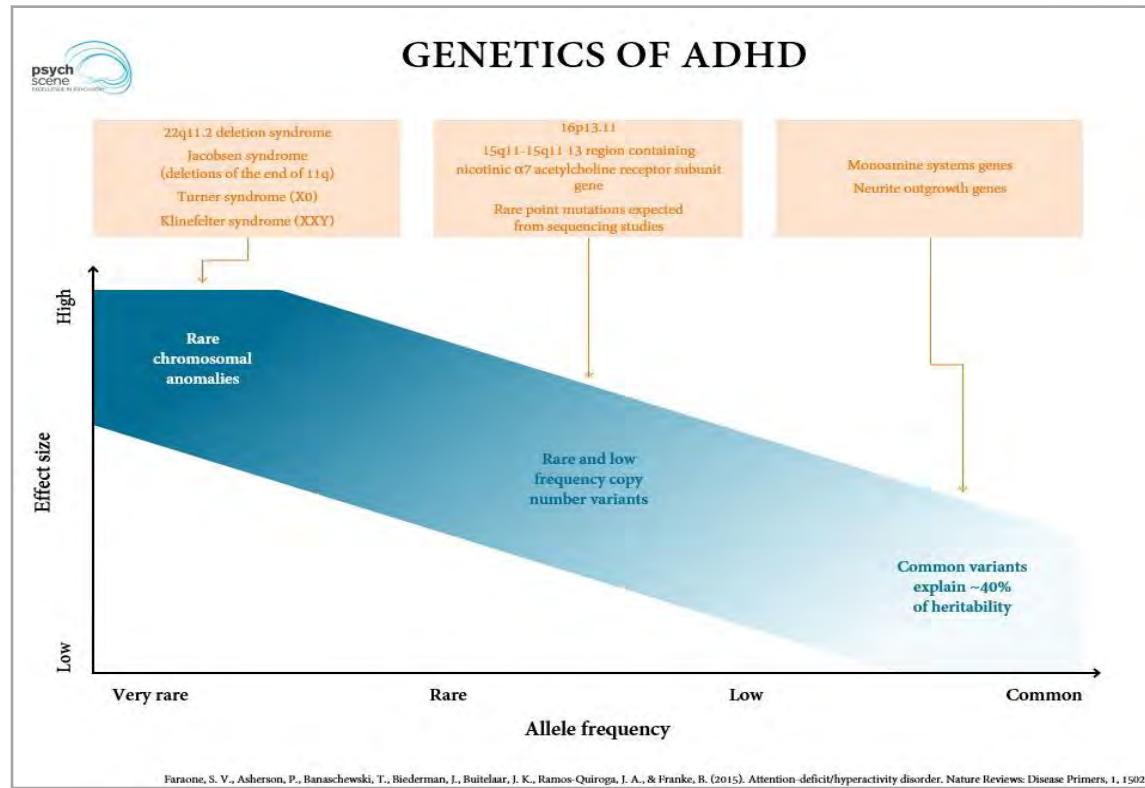
⇒ Causality or shared causality? Unclear

⇒ Existence of genetic factors making one more or less sensitive to adverse events? (COMT Receptor gene)



What genes

→ Both rare and common variants



- SNP studies (cas/contrôles ou TDT)
- Multiplex family studies
- GWAS (SNP, CNV)

- Dopa/ Noradrénaline
- 5HT/ HTR1B/
- COMT/ FOX / SNAP
- LPHN3/ BAIAP
- DUSP6/ SEMA6D/
- ST3GAL3
- ...



IF I GROW UP TO BE SOME
SORT OF PSYCHOPATH
BECAUSE OF THIS, YOU'LL
ALL BE SORRY!

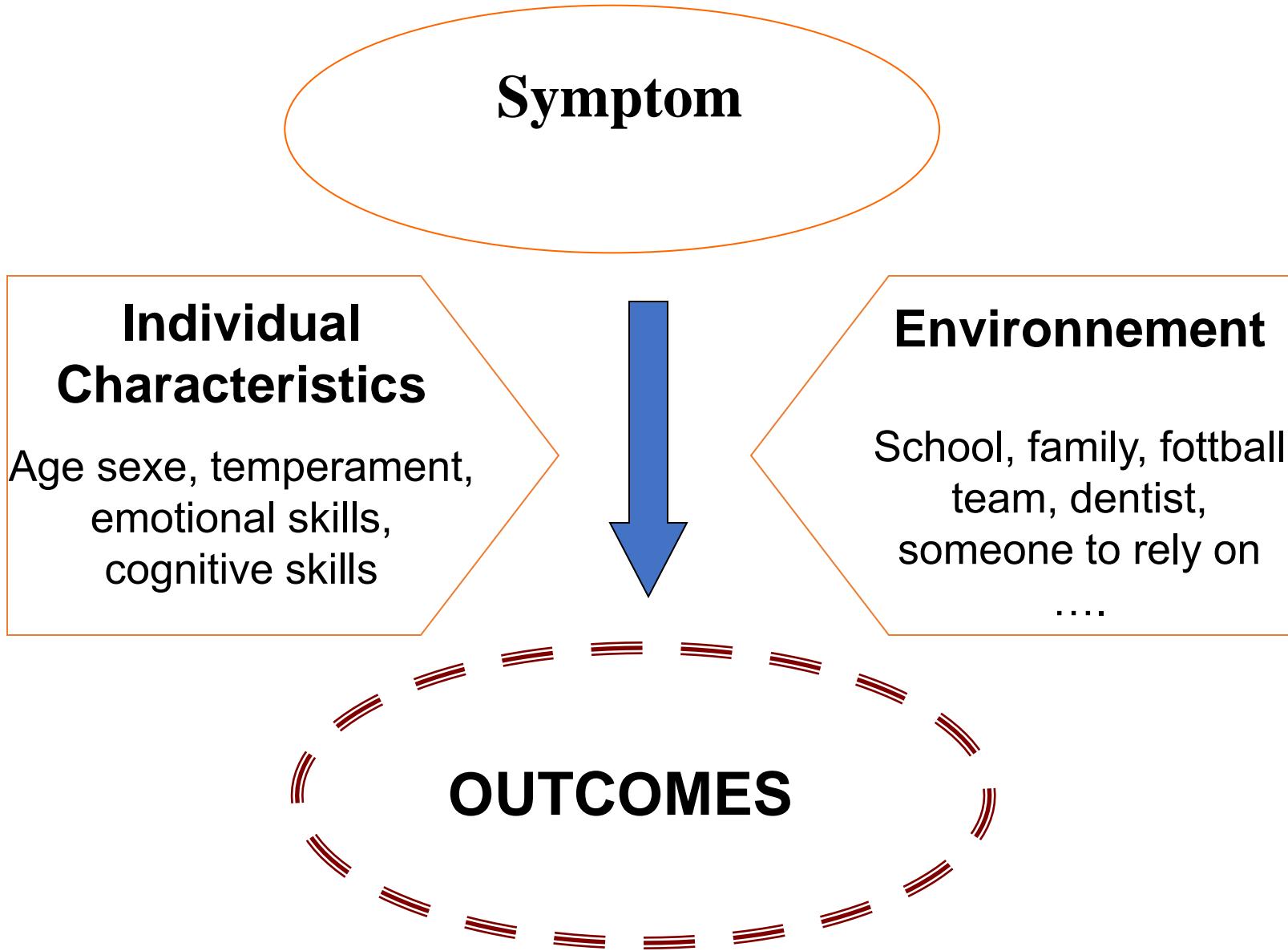


The Outcomes and evolution prospects



Symptom and the effect of environment

ESSTS



Symptom and the effect of environment

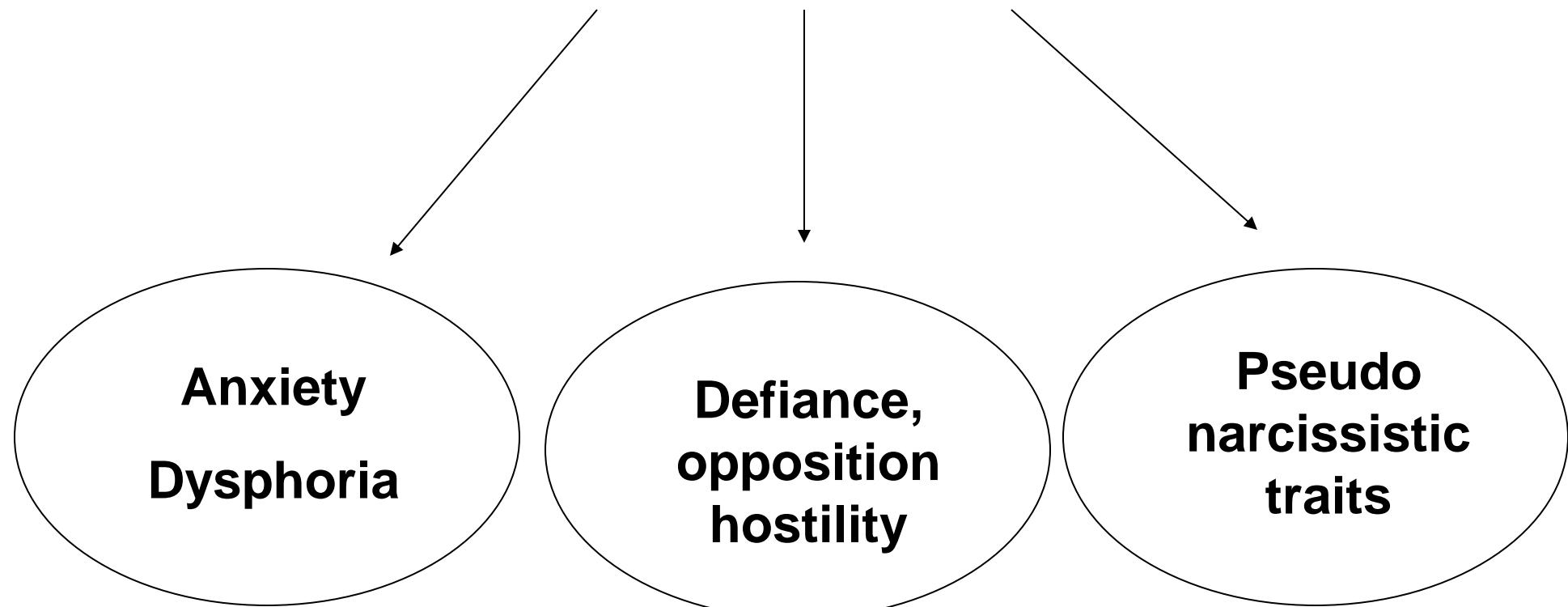
Symptoms UP	Symptoms DOWN
Sustained effort	Supervision / Monitoring
Dull and monotonous sit	screens (but it's a non lasting fix)
Unstructured & fuzzy sit	Immediat Renforcement
Groupe	Tea for two situation
Fatigue	Fractionned tasks
With mom	Avec papa

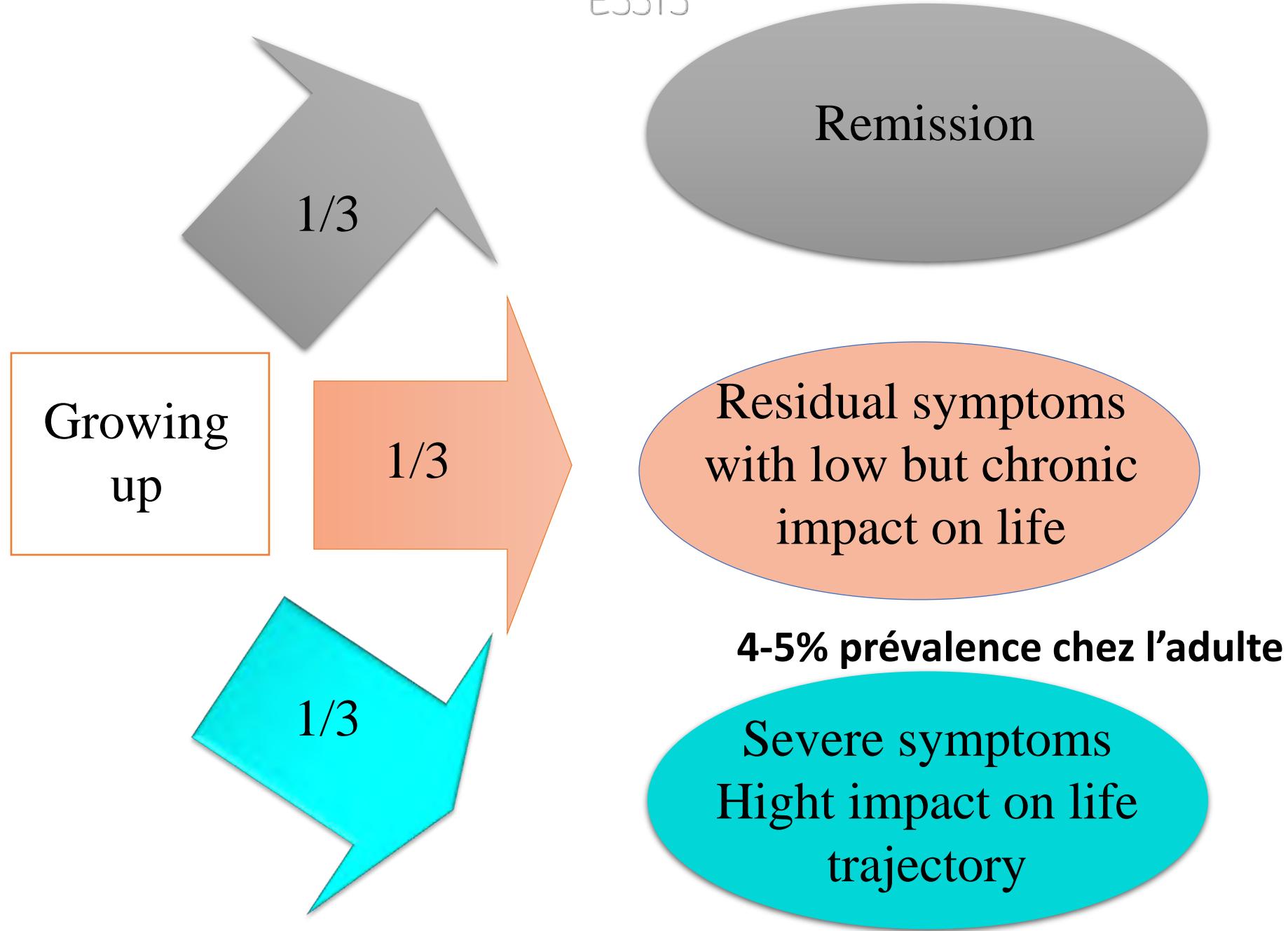


Emotional impact

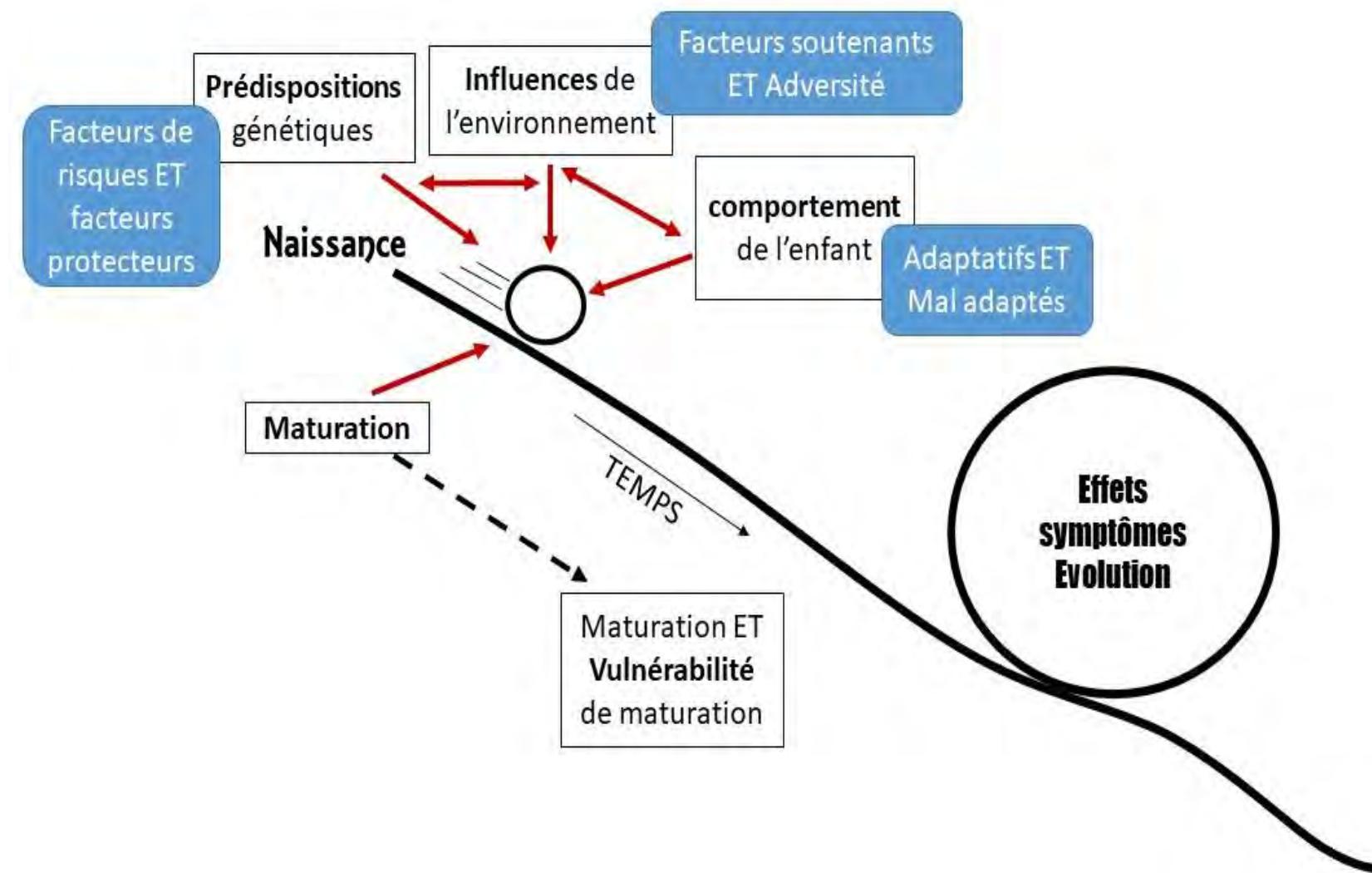
Low self esteem

Chronic feeling of failure, helplessness,
Isolation, bad feed back from nurtureres and peers





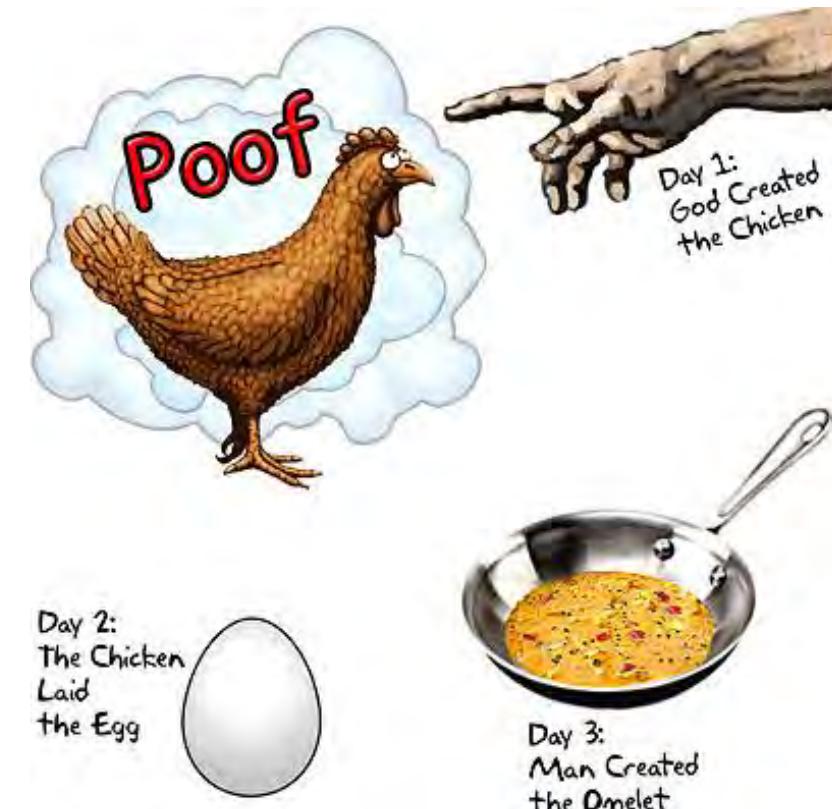
The Snowball effect model



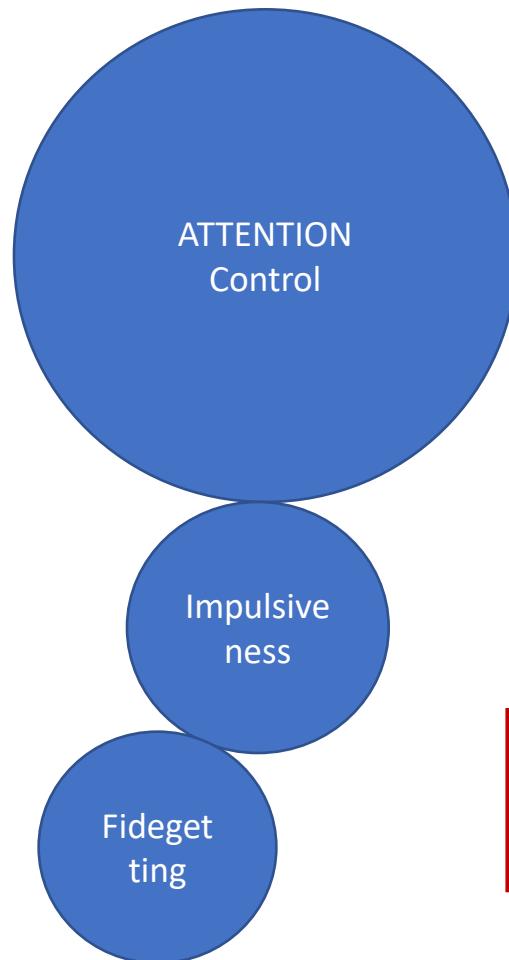
Adapté d'après Butelaar 2018



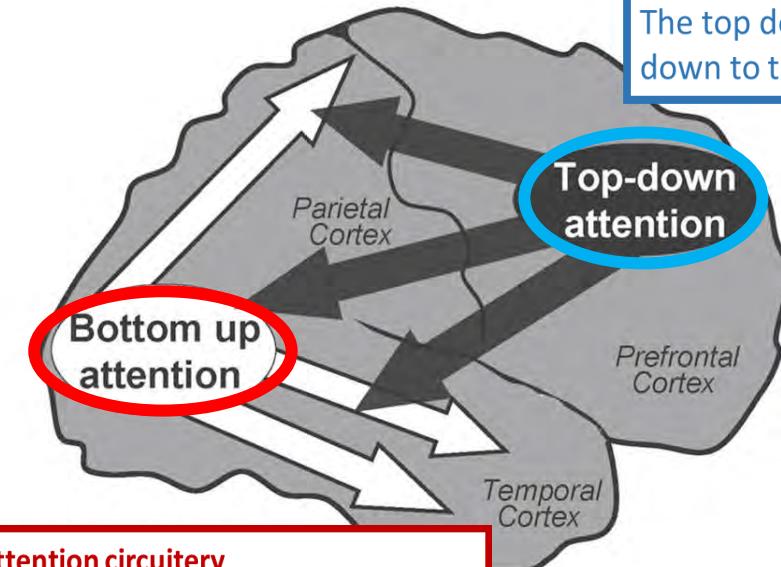
How does all that work?



ADHD : Attention



Orientation



Bottom Up attention circuitry

Attention is triggered by a stimulus with a great value in terms of survival (for ex something moving fast)
The Stimulus is pushed Forward automatically

Attention control : Top Down circuitry

Attention is guided with an internal objective or a goal to achieve and helps filtering (pertinent stimuli to that end, for ex : finding food)

The top down signals starts in the frontal cortex down to the sensorial levels & posterior cortex

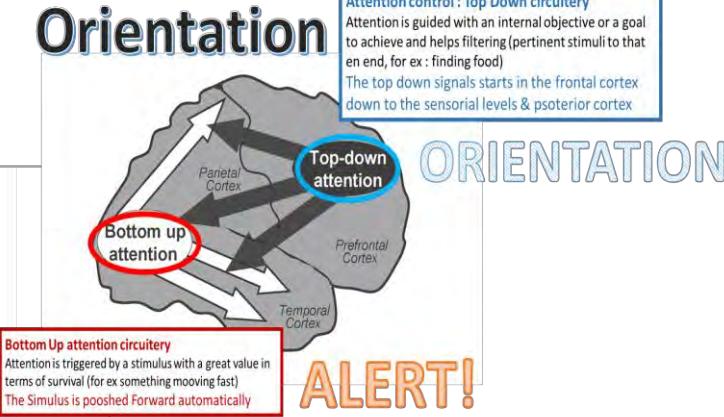
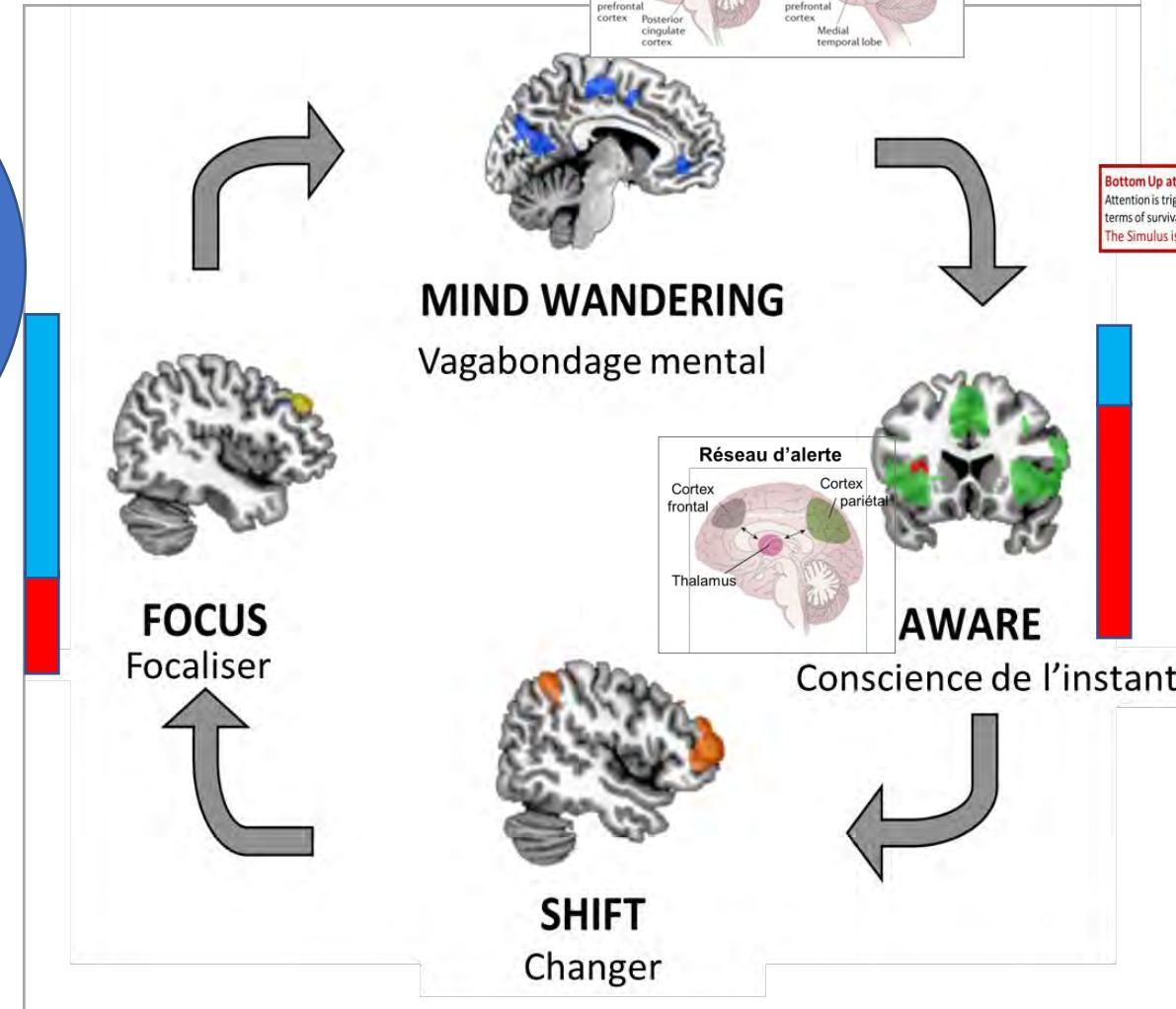
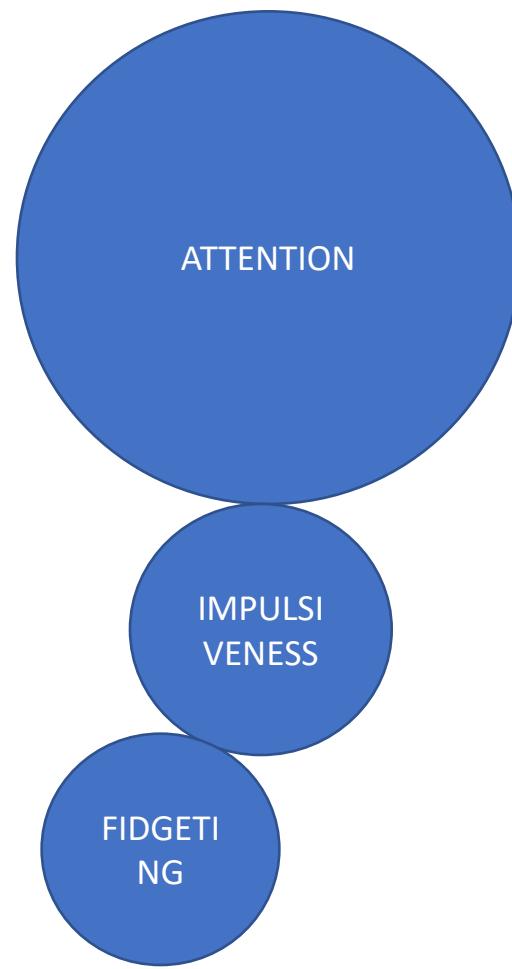
ORIENTATION



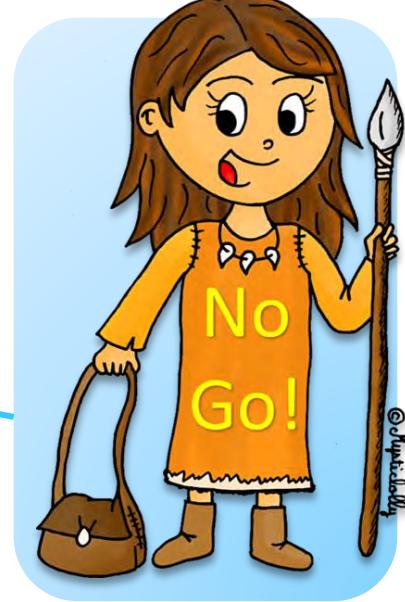
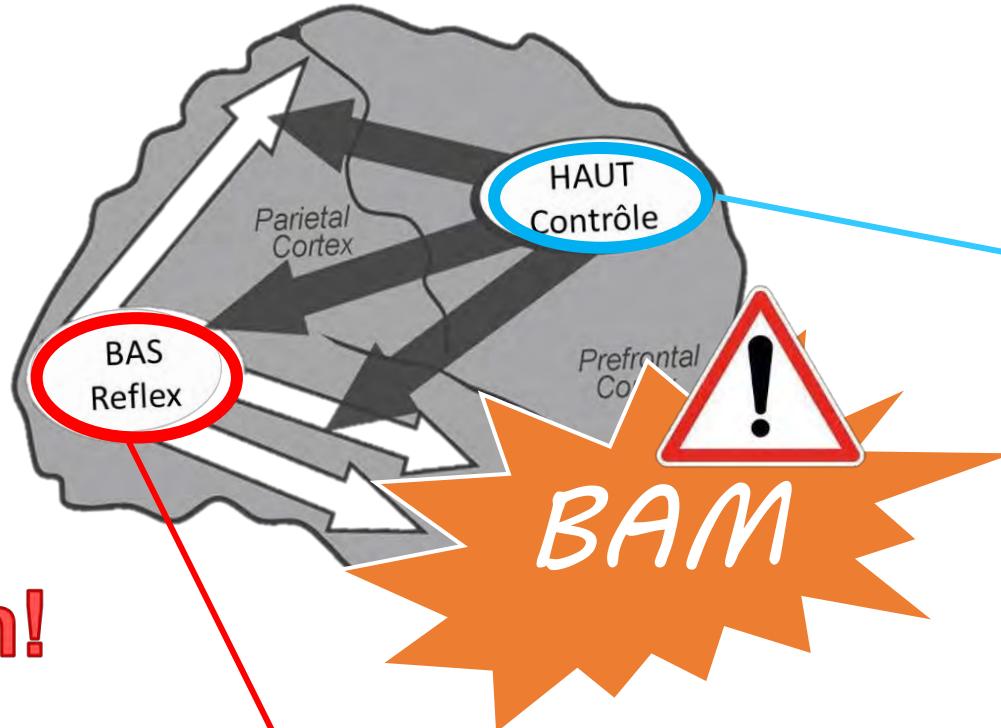
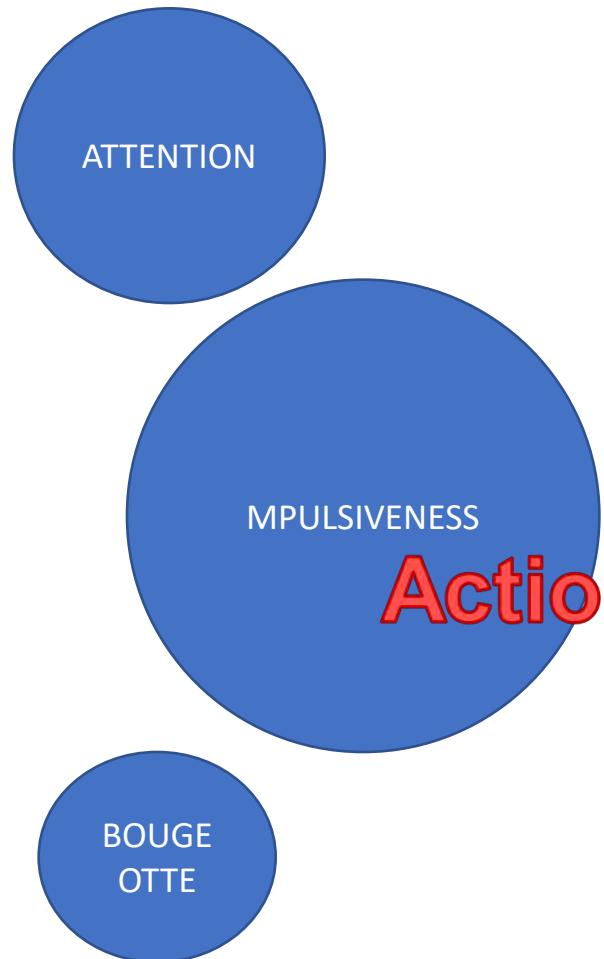
ALERT!



ADHD : Attention



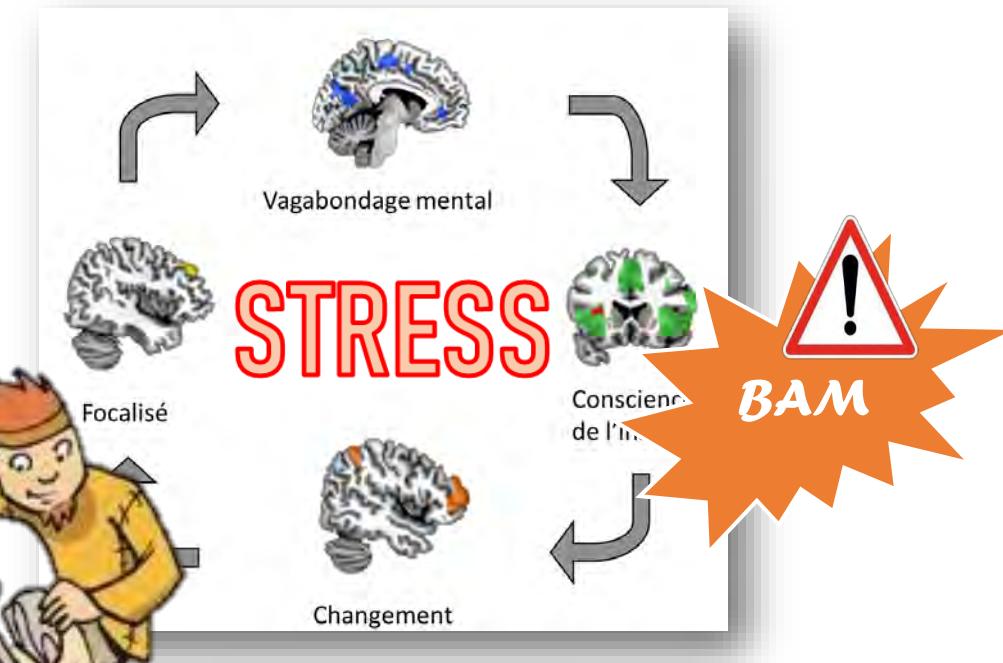
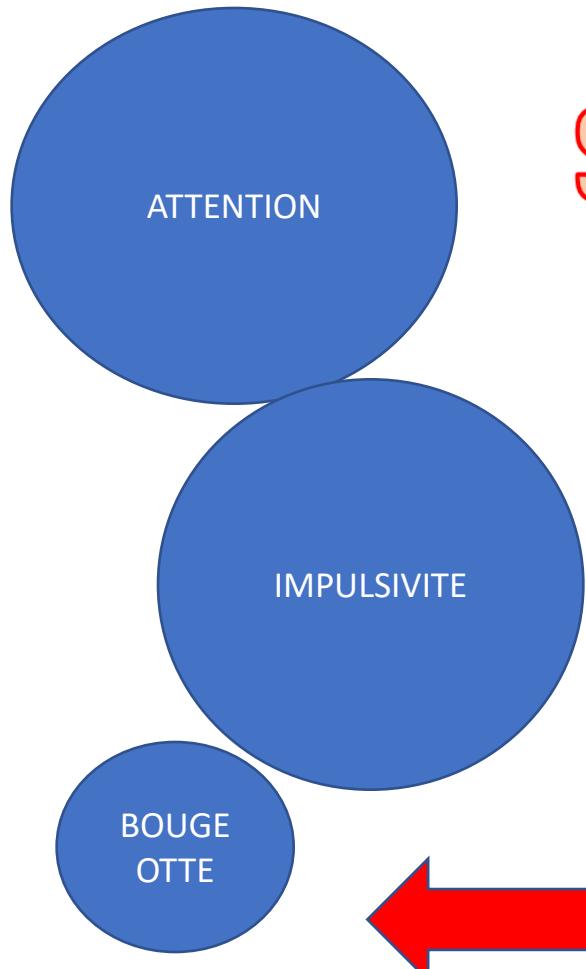
ADHD : impulsiveness



ADHD: LACK OF INHIBITION



ADHD and STRESS!



FLEXIBILITY
PLANIFICATION



+ STRESS, ANGER, EXHAUSTION ...

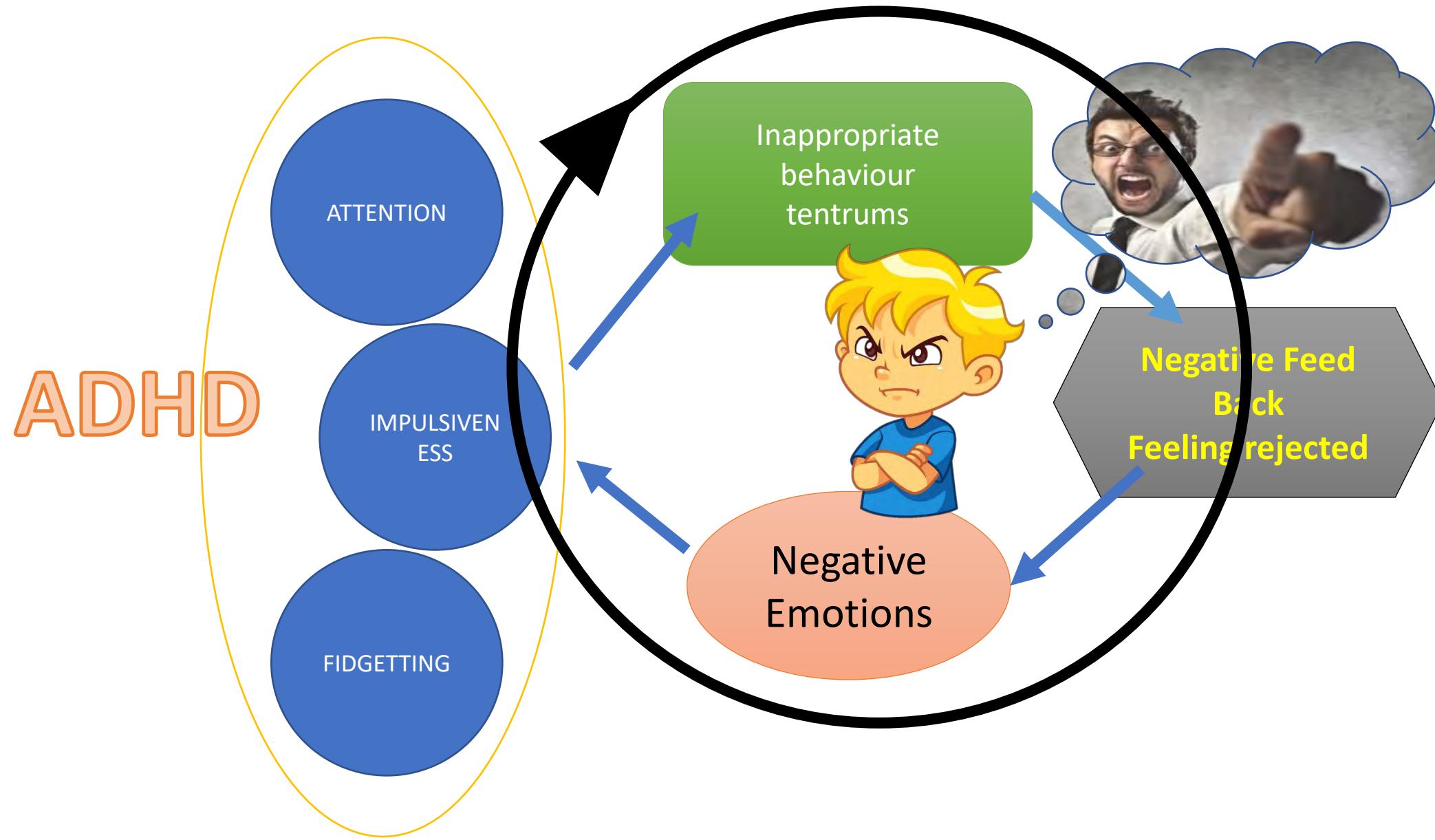
automatique response A takes over



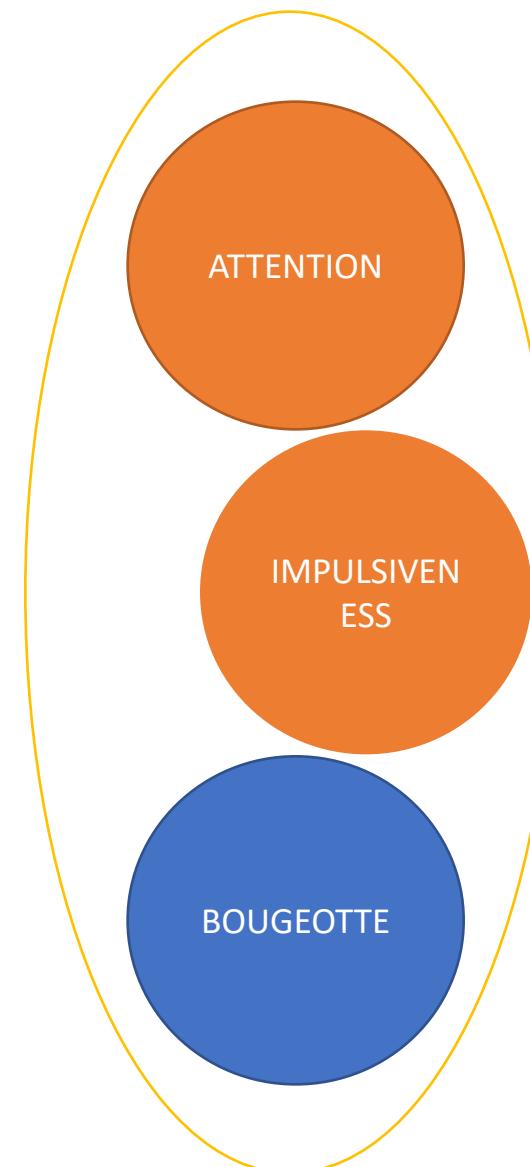
RESTED, SERENITY,
MINDFULNESS, SATISFACTION

Response B becomes possible

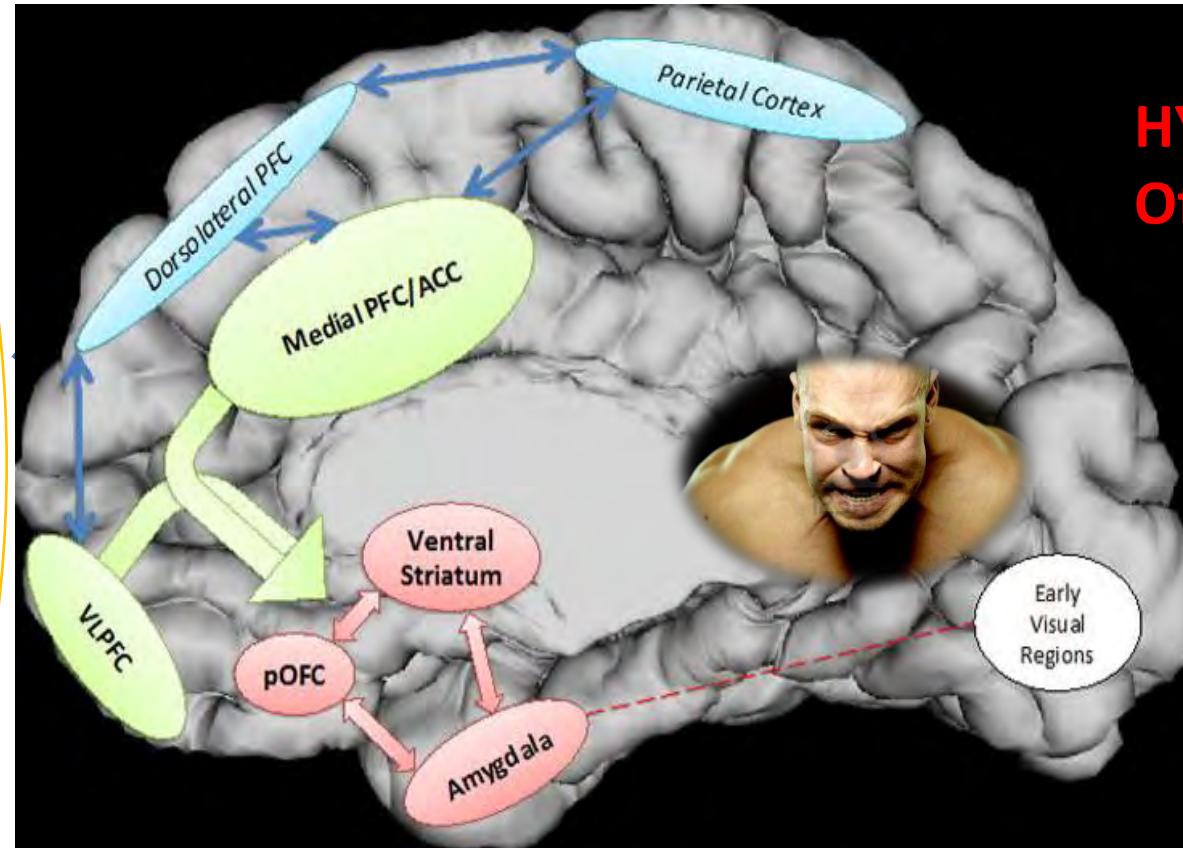
ADHD and Négative Emotions (-): The vicious circle



ADHD and Négative Emotions (-): The dysrégulation model



TOO MUCH ORIENTATION twds Negative Stimuli



HYPER SAILLANCE
Of HOSTILITY

BOTTOM UP OVER Activation (survival mode)

Shaw et al. 2014



A word about outburst and tentrum



A tale of overload

Explosion of rage
For « no reason »
Impossible to
Cool off



A tale of overload



+ STRESS, ANGER, EXHAUSTION ...

automatique response A takes over



RESTED, SERENITY,
MINDFULNESS, SATISFACTION

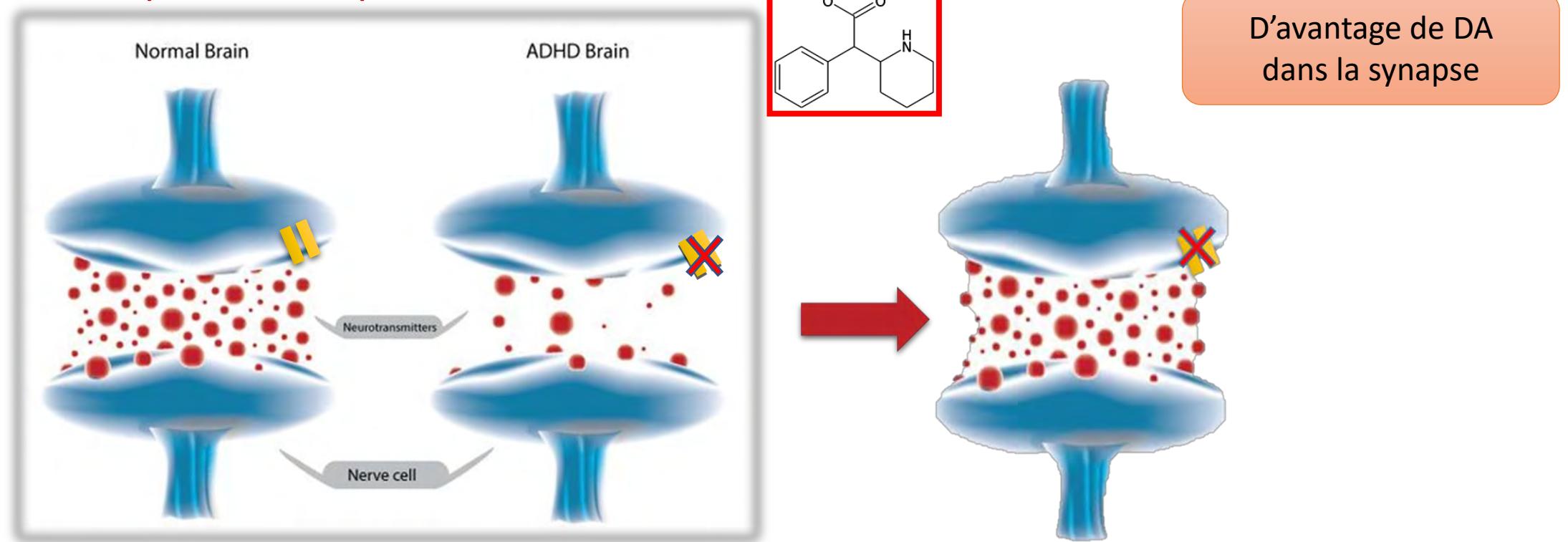
Response B becomes possible

TREATMENT and CARE



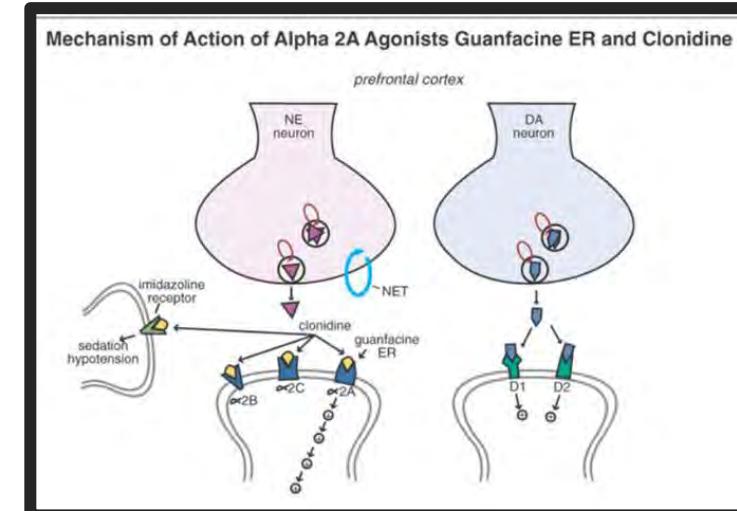
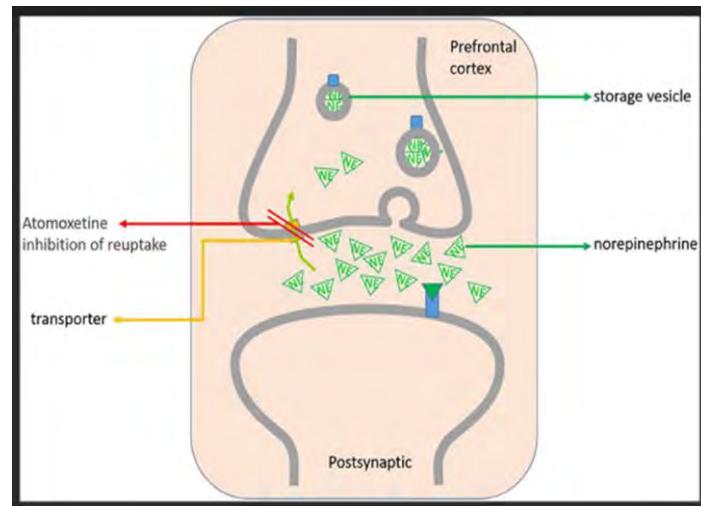
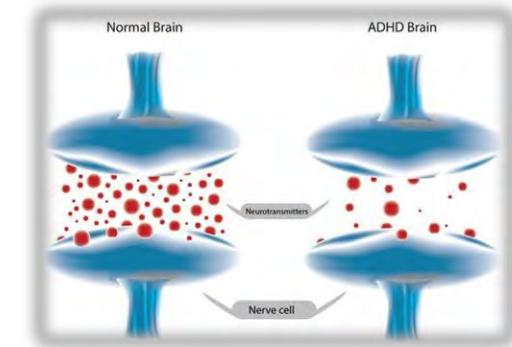
Pharmacological approach: Méthylphénidate

- Methylphénidate
- Target: DAT1/ NET1 Transporter
- Inhibits dopamine reuptake



Other prescriptions

- Guanfacine
- Dexamphetamin
- Atomoxetine



Non pharmacological approach : School adaptations



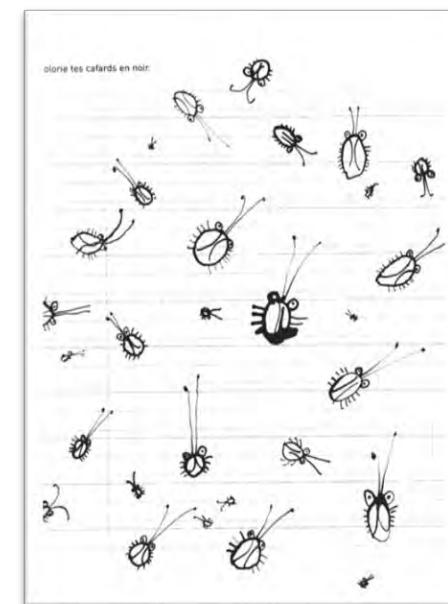
4 strategies



INFORM and EDUCATE teachers



Non pharmacological approach : School adaptations



Non pharmacological approach: Parenting programs and CBT

Each child had its own modalities. You can not have « one fits all » strategy

- Behavioral Angle
- Change the parental response to change the child behaviour
- Teach parents the art of crystal clear command
- Lean on
 - Positive reinforcement of good behavior with positive attention
 - Do not reinforce bad behavior with negative attention
- Reinforce parents with their progress (modeling)



Non pharmacological approach: Parenting programs

Each child had its own modalities. You can not have « one fits all » strategy

Controlled Studies

- Reduces defiant opposing behaviour
- Maintains up to 2 years
- Other effects
 - Reduces **parental stress**
 - Augments **parental sense of efficiency**
 - Improves **family interactions**
 - Improves **problem solving**
 - Improves **emotional control**
 - Improves **child's self esteem**

Exemple of positive parenting systems

- **Triple P**
- **Invredible Years**



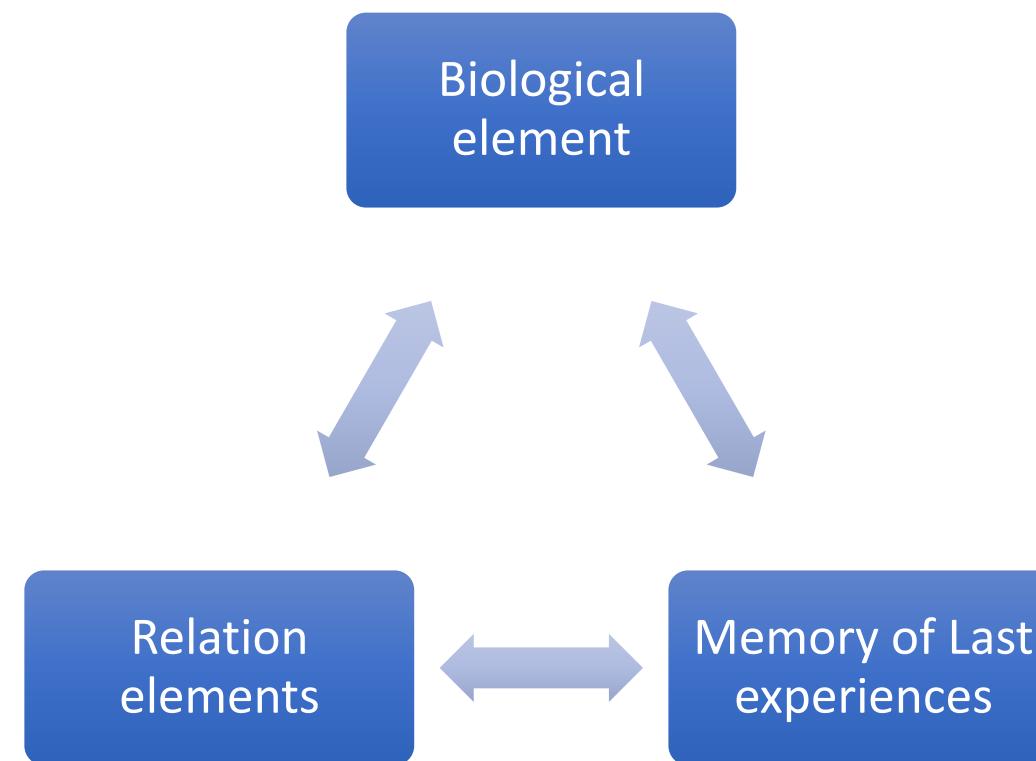
The good behavior trade system: The super tool of positive psychologie

Trade good behaviour coins for privileges



Emotionnal Dysrégulation a trans diagnostic thing

Impossible to control the automatic emotionnal response



Thank you for your attention

