

Psychiatric Medications for Children and Adolescents
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Children and adolescents have symptoms that are not clearly defined including: abuse, separation, stress, neglect, loss, adjustments to school and/or foster homes—these symptoms are frequently mislabeled as specific psychiatric disorders.

- Feeling troubled is diagnosed as anxiety.
- Sadness is diagnosed as depression.
- Displaying anger is diagnosed as bipolar disorder.
- Being nervous is diagnosed as Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD).

Frequent misdiagnosed problems lead to unnecessary medical treatment in children and adolescents. Psychiatric medication is used to control behavior.

Psychiatric medication is prescribed when necessary to stabilize children and adolescents. In order to properly medicate a child or adolescent, a complete evaluation is recommended, including information from the biological family, foster parents, primary care physician, teachers, therapists, caseworkers, and/or other service providers.

Medication that is safe in adults may not be safe in children and adolescents. How can we help families and professionals understand the actual needs for psychiatric medication of our children and adolescents?

It is more important that we give our children and adolescents the skills and self-reliance to face the future. In our system today, in what ways can we teach our children at any age, social, emotional, coping skills, and problem solving?

If we are able to teach our children and adolescents the skills they need, the use of psychiatric medication in children and adolescents will decrease substantially.

Psychiatric Medications Used in Children and Adolescents

<u>Depression</u>	<u>FDA Approved</u>	<u>Non-FDA Approved</u>
Prozac	✓	
Paxil		✓
Wellbutrin		✓
Lexapro		✓
Celexa		✓
<u>Anxiety Disorder</u>		
Zoloft	✓	
<u>ADHD</u>		
Ritalin	✓	
Strattera	✓	
Concerta	✓	
Clonidine	✓	
Adderall	✓	
<u>Mood Disorder, Anger or Aggression</u>		
Lithium	✓ (over 12 years)	
Risperidal		✓
Abilify		✓
Depakote		✓
<u>Schizophrenia, Bipolar, Mania</u>		
Zyprexa		✓
Secquel		✓