

Scoring the Vanderbilt ADHD Scales

The Vanderbilt rating scale is a screening and information gathering tool which can assist with making an ADHD diagnosis and with monitoring treatment effects over time. The Vanderbilt rating scale results alone do not make a diagnosis of ADHD or diagnose any other disorder — one must consider information from multiple sources to make a clinical diagnosis. Symptom items 1-47 are noted to be significantly present if the parent or teacher records the symptom as “often or very often” present (a 2 or 3 on the scale). The “performance” items at the end are felt to be significant if the parent or teacher records either a 1 or 2 on each item.

The validation studies for the Vanderbilt Assessment Scales were for the 6-12 year old age group. To the extent that they collect information to establish DSM-5 criteria, they are applicable to other groups where the DSM-5 criteria are appropriate.

Parent Version

Predominantly Inattentive Subtype

Requires 6 or more counted behaviors on items 1 through 9 and a performance problem (score of 1 or 2) in any of the items on the *performance* section.

Predominantly Hyperactive/Impulsive Subtype

Requires 6 or more counted behaviors on items 10 through 18 and a performance problem (score of 1 or 2) in any of the items on the *performance* section.

Combined Subtype

Requires 6 or more counted behaviors each on both the inattention and hyperactivity/impulsivity dimensions.

Oppositional-defiant disorder

Requires 4 or more counted behaviors on items 19 through 26.

Conduct disorder

Requires 3 or more counted behaviors on items 27 through 40.

Anxiety or depression

Requires 3 or more counted behaviors on items 41 through 47.

Teacher Version

Predominantly Inattentive Subtype

Requires 6 or more counted behaviors on items 1 through 9 and a performance problem (score of 1 or 2) in any of the items on the *performance* section.

Predominantly Hyperactive/Impulsive Subtype

Requires 6 or more counted behaviors on items 10 through 18 and a performance problem (score of 1 or 2) in any of the items on the *performance* section.

Combined subtype

Requires 6 or more counted behaviors each on both the inattention and hyperactivity/impulsivity dimensions.

Oppositional defiant and conduct disorders

Requires 3 or more counted behaviors from questions 19 through 28.

Anxiety or depression

Requires 3 or more counted behaviors from questions 29 through 35.

The **performance section** is scored as indicating some impairment if a child scores 1 or 2 on at least 1 item.