


AlbertMohler.com

OK, So What Kid Doesn't Fit this Description?

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

When thinking of signs of our times, consider this advertisement from a Nebraska newspaper. The ad was brought to my attention by a helpful listener to the radio program.



ADHD

Does Your Child 6-12 yrs. Have ADHD Symptoms?

- has difficulty paying attention at home or in school
- can't sit still and is easily distracted, can't play quietly
- does not seem to listen, loses things, interrupts others
- has trouble taking turns, cannot stay seated, fidgety

We are looking for healthy boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 12 to participate in a research study of an investigational medication for ADHD.

Health insurance is not required. For more information, contact:

Nebraska **402-552-6340**
UNIVERSITY OF
Medical Center Psychopharmacology Research Consortium
NEBRASKA'S HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER www.unmc.edu/prc • unmcpvc@unmc.edu

Now, let's think carefully about this. Can't sit still? Can't play quietly? Loses things? Does not seem to listen? Has difficulty paying attention? Is fidgety? Honestly, do you know any 6 to 12-year-old children who do *not* fit this description?

The number of children — especially boys — diagnosed with ADHD has skyrocketed in recent years. While some boys may well have some kind of genuine problem, the vast majority appear to be diagnosed as, well . . . boys. As physician Leonard Sax, author of *Boys Adrift*, explains, a diagnosis of ADHD lets everyone off the hook, so to speak. The boy is told he is not responsible for his behavioral problems, the parents are relieved of anxiety over inadequate parenting, teachers and bureaucrats have a new pathological slot into which boys can be filed, and drug companies get to sell pills. Everybody wins.

But, as Dr. Sax argues, the diagnosis and the drugs can have far-reaching consequences for the boy. I am not a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a pharmacologist, or a medical professional of any sort. I am a former boy, however, and I know very well that every boy I have ever known would fit the categories described in this advertisement.

I would write more about this, but I just can't sit still. Now, what were we talking about?

Content Copyright © 2002-2010, R. Albert Mohler, Jr.