

## Without Boundaries – Challenges and Hopes for Living with ADHD: An International Survey



## -VERBATIM SHEET-

The following are a selection of verbatims from parents who participated in the international survey. These statements can be published.

The greatest challenges that ADHD has created for the child and their family

Parent from The Netherlands: "He basically stands between you and your partner. All family life is directed by him, he has a very demanding and dominating presence...He always takes centre-stage and he can't keep his hands and feet to himself. He hits and kicks - I feel like a police officer."

Parent from Italy: "There is no peace and we cannot predict what will happen. [He leads a life of] solitude due to ignorance of other people ...they [ADHD children] are not bad children and it is not their fault they are like this - I wish there was more understanding."

Parent from Australia: "She has difficulties socialising and during school time. She has difficulty with focusing and with concentration, so she tends to feel misunderstood and her distress upsets the rest of the family."

Parent from Mexico: "We thought it was us who didn't know how to educate [our] child and that it was ourselves who were failing."

**Parent from UK:** "He has had difficulties at school, he does not have friends and finds it difficult to be accepted by other people [who] don't understand ADHD."

Parent from Spain: "The relationship with his father has broken down. We've now split because my ex-husband could never understand his condition."

Parent from US: "It's hurt him a lot socially as he has a hard time making friends. It has undermined his confidence in us as parents. He's accident-prone and is not making good grades in school."

How ADHD treatment (of any kind) has affected the quality of life for the child and their family

Parent from Mexico: "His self esteem and relations with his peers has improved, The anguish I had about knowing how he was going to do at school [has] almost disappeared. He is more optimistic and has been able to integrate into doing other things, he has more invitations to social meetings and accompanies us to things to which he couldn't before."

Parent from Australia: "It's made an amazing difference. It's probably kept our marriage together. It has meant that I have a good relationship with my child which I doubt I would have had without the medication."

Parent from Spain: "Medication has changed our lives completely in every way. [Our daughter] is more sociable, you can talk with her, she is doing much better at school, she now has friends, which she didn't before, only with her brother does she still misbehave!"

Parent from Germany: "Because of the medicine we have a family life again, he is able to keep friendships and we are able to celebrate family parties. A normal family life is possible."

