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**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES
PHARMACY**

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Dear Parents

Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder or AD/HD is a disorder, which affects between 2% and 5% of primary school children. The child has difficulty paying attention, controlling his or her activity and is impulsive. However, it is much more than a matter of being inattentive and overactive. The child has problems in coping with his or her schoolwork and may not be getting along well with other children. They are also unable to complete assigned tasks without supervision and cause disruptions in the family.

The problems may cause that the child is unable to adjust to the normal requirements of ordinary life. They are not likely to be outgrown and could cause future problems with reckless behaviour, possible risk of law breaking and drug abuse. The disorder is more common in boys than in girls.

The cause of ADHD is not known yet, but research suggests that it may be an inherited condition. Pollutants and poor nutrition may also play a role. It is not caused by failure to discipline or control the child. The children benefit from medication.

It is extremely important that these children are diagnosed and treated correctly at an early age so that suffering at home and at school can be prevented and the child may not be at risk for future problem behaviour.

The correct diagnosis ADHD has always caused a problem. This is an approved departmental research project of the University Limpopo – Turfloop Campus in collaboration with the University of Oslo, Norway. The Superintendent General of Education of the Limpopo Province has granted permission.

Please contact me on the number above should you agree in letting your child participate in this project. The research will be done by ways of questionnaire and interviews with the parents of identified children. Interviews will be arranged by appointments with relevant parents, and will be done by the researcher personally

The information will be used for statistical analysis only and in no circumstances will the identity of the child and the school be revealed. The final report will be made available to all interested. However,

Appendix E: Letter to the Parents

would you like to consult us on any problems your child is experiencing; the University psychologists will provide counselling.

You and your child's participation are very important and will contribute to the gaining of valuable information on ADHD and the prescribing of methylphenidate in primary school children.

BC COETZEE
B.Pharm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

PROF ANNEKE MEYER
CO-SUPERVISOR