

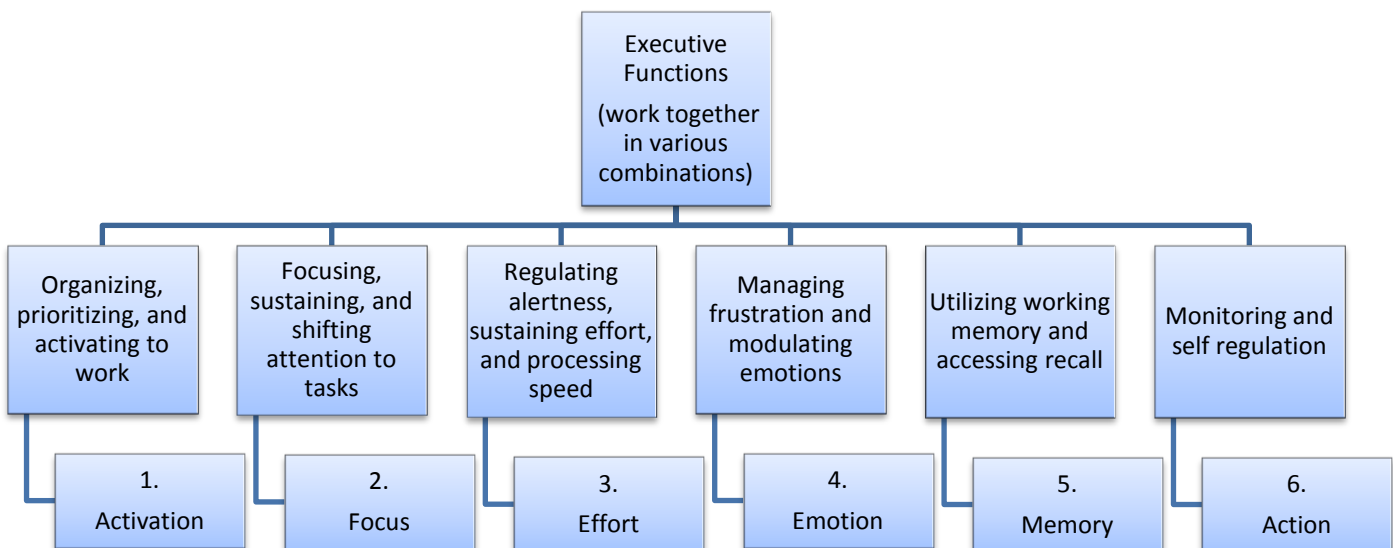
Executive Functions Impaired in ADD

Dr. Brown has developed an expanded model to describe the complex cognitive functions impaired in ADD Syndrome. This model describes executive functions which is the cognitive management system of the human brain.

Although the model shows six separate clusters, **these functions continually work together, usually rapidly and unconsciously, to help each individual manage many tasks of daily life.** The functions appear in basic forms in young children and gradually become more complex as the brain matures throughout childhood, adolescence and early adulthood.

Everyone has occasional impairments in their executive functions, individuals with ADD experience much more difficulty in development and use of these functions than do most others of the same age and developmental level. **Yet even those with severe ADD usually have some activities where their executive functions work very well.**

They may have chronic difficulty with ADD symptoms in most areas of life, but when it comes to a few special interests like playing sports or video games, doing art or building lego constructions, their ADD symptoms are absent. **This phenomenon of "can do it here, but not most anyplace else" makes it appear that ADD is a simple problem of lacking willpower; it isn't.**



Brown Model of ADD Syndrome