

## **Older – ADD (about 5:00 min)**

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Older the Elder (sitting in chair)

Interviewer: (to audience) (Note – Attention Deficit disorder should always be read with great drama.)

Today we have with us Older the Elder, long standing expert on Attention Deficit Disorder.

I: (to Older)

Welcome, mister Older. How does it feel to be a long standing expert on Attention Deficit Disorder?

Older: (standing up)

Hard on the legs. Long-standing, that is.

I:

But what about Attention Deficit Disorder?

O:

Oh, I think that already gets too much attention. Especially since nobody believes in it but the TeeVee people

I: (Disbelieveing)

You don't believe in attention deficits?

O:

Attention deficits? Sure I believe in 'em. Just don't believe it's a disorder.

I: (Outraged)

You think it's normal to have attention deficits?

O:

Is if you're watchin' television. That why they make the TeeVee remotes. You think it's normal not to have a TV remote?

I:

We're getting off topic. Attention Deficit Disorder is not about people switching channels on television. It's about children not paying attention in school. Is that normal?

O:

Is in every school I ever saw. That's where I caught it. From Socrates.

I:

O: Socrates? You studied under Socrates?

I: Naw. Just listened to him a while. Didn't pay much attention. Thought he was boring. But that's where I caught it.

O: Caught what?

I: ADD. Only we didn't know the name, then. Called it S I B D, we did.

O: S I B D?

I: Socrates is boring disorder. Socrates taught that people who didn't pay attention to him had something wrong with them. Disorder.

O: Well, we seem to have gotten distracted. What were we talking about?

I: ADD. That's when people can't pay attention and are easily distracted. But don't worry. It only applies to kids.

O: And you said you had Attention Deficit Disorder. How does it feel to have Attention Deficit Disorder?

I: Can't say I ever noticed. Socrates noticed that I went to sleep in the middle of his classes, so that's how he found out. I thought it was just because he was boring. But he explained to me that it was my fault.

O: So Socrates was the first one to diagnose Attention Deficit Disorder?

I: Not sure about that. I think Socrates was the first documented bore. You can't have attention deficit without a bore. Just like with allergies.

O: What do you think causes Attention Deficit Disorder?

I: Schools, mainly. And the bear shortage.

O: Bears? What do bears have to do with Attention Deficit?

I: Not a thing. You got a bear walking around you, you got no attention deficit.

O: Schools then. You think they cause Attention Deficit Disorder?

I: That's where it happens. Schools and school work. Never happens around bears.

O: So I figure kids catch it in school.

I:  
You think it's a disease?

O:  
Not me. I never said there was anything wrong with it. But Socrates – he said there was something wrong with me.

I thought it was more like S D D.

I:  
Another acronym. People don't like acronyms.

O:  
People don't like fancy words, either. SDD is short for Spinach Dislike Disorder.

That explains why kids don't like spinach. They catch it from eating spinach.

I:  
Couldn't it just be that spinach is bitter and kids don't like bitter?

O:  
Oh. You don't wanta say that. You spread that around and somebody is gonna say that ADD comes from school is boring and kids don't like boring.

I:  
Oh, I don't think anybody would say that.

O:  
Guess you weren't paying attention again, sonny. I just said that.

I:  
OK. So what's wrong with saying that?

O:  
Flies in the face of fundamental management principles. The first step in dealing with any problem is to blame it on somebody else.

I: (with relief)  
Well, I see our time is up. Thank you Older the Elder for an enlightening discussion of – trying to recall) – that topic.

(Older sits)

(I walks away muttering):  
I'm going to kill the producer that got me this case.

