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**The Case Assignments represent 20% from the student overall grade.**

### **Specific Assignment for Child Focused Counseling**

**Students will write a 5-8 page paper in APA format (including at least 2 professional references) on a commonly occurring mental disorder of children/adolescents. Topics might include ADD/ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, disruptive behavioral disorders (e.g., conduct disorder), or a mood disorder (See Week 2 DSM diagnoses). You also may choose as a topic a typical presenting problem such as neglect, physical or emotional abuse, or suicidal ideation. The paper must include the following headings:**

#### **Heading # 1- Introduction**

- **Introduce your topic and what you want to accomplish in the paper**

#### **Heading #2- Defining the Problem**

- **What is the prevalence of the disorder/presenting problem?**
- **What are the criteria or symptoms used to diagnose the presenting problem?**
- **What are the problems/special considerations in diagnosing the disorder/presenting problem in children/adolescents?**
- **Discuss the etiology of the presenting problem as found in research**

#### **Heading #3 - Treatment**

- **What evidenced-based approaches are available in treating the disorder? If no evidenced-based approaches exist, what are treatment approaches suggested in the literature?**
- **Describe at least two approaches (medication should not be used as one of the two approaches. Focus more on the therapeutic approaches to assist)**
- **What are the strengths/limitations of each approach?**

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- **What approach would you choose and why?**

## **Heading #4 - Conclusion**

**For your case assignment, make sure to include headings using the outline given for the paper. The headings will help indicate that you have covered all areas of the paper and make your paper that much more organized.**