Today’s piece was prepared by Tendo Kironde, MD, based on a NY Times article [Why Parents and Doctors Should Think About A.D.H.D. in Preschool](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/05/well/family/why-parents-and-doctors-should-think-about-adhd-in-preschool.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fwell&action=click&contentCollection=well®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=search&contentPlacement=6&pgtype=sectionfront)

This New York Times article interprets a 2016 Pediatrics article that reports on a retrospective cohort study, reviewing EMR diagnosis codes from 63 centers including 87,067 children with a total of 118,957 visits from 2008 to 2014, which found that including preschoolers in AAP guidelines for ADHD management, which covered only school-age children before its 2011 publication, did not increase ADHD diagnoses or stimulant prescription.

This article quotes a first author of the 2011 AAP guidelines that prior to the guidelines, many preschool children were treated with medication for short attention span. The 2011 guidelines were actually more conservative in management recommendation than was the common practice, recommending behavioral therapy as the initial intervention in this age group.

Despite the 2011 guidelines emphasizing behavioral therapy prior to medication for ADHD in 4-5 year old children, many people feared that including children this young in the guidelines would lead to a sharp increase in the incidence and prevalence of ADHD.

This New York Times article summarizing the effects of clinical practice guidelines on the rate of diagnosis and medical management of ADHD is brief but effective. It concludes with an excellent summary of the documented effectiveness of behavioral therapy, consistent with the emphasis outlined in the clinical practice guidelines, but omits a limitation of retrospective cohort studies that causality can not be assumed.

**RESOURCES ON ADHD IN PRESCHOOL:**[Preschoolers and ADHD](http://www.chadd.org/Understanding-ADHD/For-Parents-Caregivers/Preschoolers-and-ADHD.aspx) *CHADD*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!