

Educational Implications

Students with schizophrenia can have educational problems such as difficulty concentrating or paying attention. Their behavior and performance may fluctuate from day to day. These students are likely to exhibit thought problems or physical complaints; or they may act out or become withdrawn. Sometimes they may show little or no emotional reaction; at other times, their emotional responses may be inappropriate for the situation.

Resources

NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill)

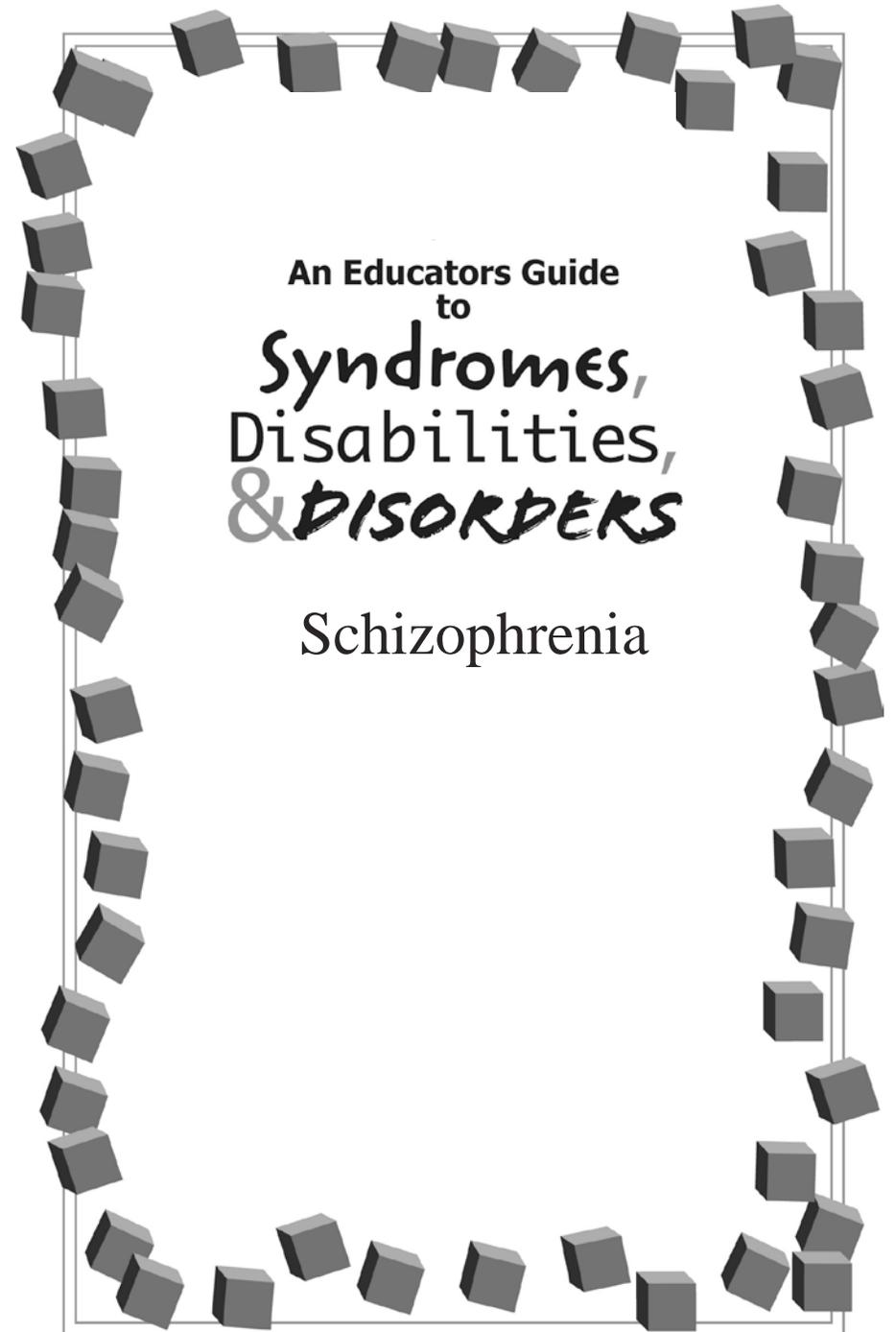
Colonial Place Three
2107 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201
703-524-7600 • 800-950-6264
www.nami.org

National Association for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD)

60 Cutter Mill Road, Suite 404
Great Neck, NY 11021
800-829-8289
www.narsad.org • info@narsad.org
Research updates and fact sheets

National Mental Health Association

2001 North Beauregard Street, 12th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22311
800-969-6642 • www.nmha.org
Fact sheets, news updates, referrals, support groups



Symptoms or Behaviors

- Confused thinking (for example, confusing what happens on television with reality)
- Vivid and bizarre thoughts and ideas
- Hallucinations
- Hearing, seeing, feeling, or smelling things that are not real or present
- Delusions
- Having beliefs that are fixed and false (i.e., believing that aliens are out to kill them because of information that they have)
- Severe anxiety and fearfulness
- Extreme moodiness
- Severe problems in making and keeping friends
- Feelings that people are hostile and “out to get them”
- Odd behavior, including behavior resembling that of a younger child
- Disorganized speech
- Lack of motivation

Instructional Strategies and Classroom Accommodations

- Reduce stress by going slowly when introducing new situations.
- Help students set realistic goals for academic achievement and extra-curricular activities

- Obtaining educational and cognitive testing can be helpful in determining if the student has specific strengths that can be capitalized upon to enhance learning.
- Establish regular meetings with the family for feedback on health and progress.
- Because the disorder is so complex and often debilitating, it will be necessary to meet with the family, with mental health providers, and with the medical professionals who are treating the student.

These individuals can provide the information you will need to understand the student’s behaviors, the effects of the psychotropic medication and how to develop a learning environment.

- Often it is helpful to have a “Team Meeting” to discuss the various aspects of the child’s education and development.
- Encourage other students to be kind and to extend their friendship

—From “Schizophrenia: Youth’s Greatest Disabler,” produced by the British Columbia Schizophrenia Society, available at www.mentalhealth.com/book/p40-sc02.html