



They found that the most immature children in a classroom are more often given ADHD diagnoses.

“More children born in December, the youngest in a class, are diagnosed with ADHD than kids born in January, the oldest in a class. The younger children are more often disorderly than the oldest. That could be expected. It is worrisome if being youngest leads to an ADHD diagnosis and perhaps the use of medication,” says researcher Marte Strøm.

International studies also show that the likelihood of the youngest kids in a class receiving an ADHD diagnosis increases when there are more children in a single classroom.

“This points towards the school playing a role in the diagnosis. We don’t know if this applies to Norwegian schoolrooms too, but when diagnostics vary so much we need to look for the reasons. Maybe we should examine the Norwegian school system,” says Strøm.

Researchers at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health have investigated ADHD diagnoses among 510,000 Norwegian children aged 6 to 14. They have found a considerable deviation in the frequency of ADHD diagnoses and use of medication between children born early in the year and ones born late in the year.

### **Pedagogical challenges**

An ADHD diagnosis can be a relief for parents and teachers, as it seems to identify a problem, give it a name.

“But there might really be pedagogical challenges in the classroom that are being individualised,” said Professor Aksel Tjora at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology to ScienceNordic’s partner forskning.no earlier this years.

Tjora thinks ADHD diagnostics and medication of inattentive and restless children could be simultaneously letting the school system go free, relieving the system from responsibility for improving pedagogical relationships for the youngest children.

-----  
[Read the Norwegian version of this article at forskning.no](#) [5]

 [A pupil’s problems at school can link to the school’s social environment or troubles at home. Teachers and school officials can oversee such problems if they are too eager to think in terms of neuropsychiatric diagnoses, say Swedish researchers. \(Photo: Shutterstock\)](#) [6]

 [krangel\\_1.jpg](#) [7]

[ADHD and autism can be detected much earlier than previously thought](#) [8] [Self-harm is not only for troubled teens](#) [9]

[Odenbring, Y et.al: The many faces of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: Unruly behaviour in secondary school and diagnostic solutions, Power and Education, March 2017](#) [10]

[Siw Ellen Jakobsen](#) [11]

Glenn Ostling

September 15, 2017 - 06:20

This field is not in use. The footer is displayed in the mini panel called "Footer (mini panel)"

---

**Source URL:** <http://sciencenordic.com/diagnoses-often-blamed-when-kids-struggle-school>

**Links:**

- [1] <http://sciencenordic.com/category/section/society-culture>
- [2] <http://sciencenordic.com/school-and-education>
- [3] <http://sciencenordic.com/category/countries/sweden>
- [4] <http://sciencenordic.com/category/publisher/forskningno>
- [5] <http://forskning.no/psykologi-skole-og-utdanning/2017/09/diagnoser-far-ofte-skylda-nar-barn-far-trobbe>
- [6] [http://sciencenordic.com/sites/default/files/krangel\\_1.jpg](http://sciencenordic.com/sites/default/files/krangel_1.jpg)
- [7] [http://sciencenordic.com/sites/default/files/krangel\\_1\\_0.jpg](http://sciencenordic.com/sites/default/files/krangel_1_0.jpg)
- [8] <http://sciencenordic.com/adhd-and-autism-can-be-detected-much-earlier-previously-thought>
- [9] <http://sciencenordic.com/self-harm-not-only-troubled-teens>
- [10] <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1757743817693026>
- [11] <http://sciencenordic.com/content/siw-ellen-jakobsen>