

Introduction to Child and Adolescent Anxiety Workshop

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**achieving
for children**



**These resources are developed and delivered to you
by the school based mental health support team**

**Please complete the pre-workshop
form using the link attached below to
help us design resources that support
you!**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vM0uYE4FBy56dGAaj28HybwhjG1Pe9uO6WDvE38Qm8/edit>

Please note

In order to hear the voiceover, please download this Powerpoint and press 'Start Presentation'. The presentation will then automatically run with sound.

NOTE: The sound will not play if you are viewing the presentation online on 'Google Slides.'



What to expect

- ◆ This workshop will be split into three 20 minute sessions.
- ◆ After each video session, we will provide a follow up appointment on Google Hangouts where you can speak to a mental health practitioner via webcam and ask any questions that you may have from the video.



Aims for the Workshop

- ◆ Session 1: Explanation about anxiety in children.
- ◆ Session 2: How child anxiety may develop and factors that keep it going.
- ◆ Session 3: Strategies to manage anxiety and build confidence in your anxious child.



What is anxiety?

- ◆ Anxiety is a normal emotion that everyone experiences.
- ◆ It is a physiological reaction that occurs in response to a perceived harmful event or threat to survival.
- ◆ A small amount of occasional anxiety in certain situations is normal and can actually be helpful.
- ◆ When anxiety becomes a problem is when it interferes with daily life.



Avoidance

Disturbed
sleep

Withdrawn/
shy

Heart
palpitations

Refusing to
go to
school

Not being
able to
concentrate

Shaking

Illness/ sick
days

What does anxiety look like in children?

Sweating

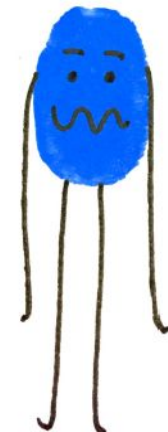
Phobias

Panic
attacks

Shortness
of breath

Worrying
over small
things

Intrusive
thoughts



Anxiety and age

Age	Common fears and worries
0-6 months	Strong sensory stimuli (e.g. loud noises); loss of support (e.g. falling).
6-12 months	Strangers; separation from caregivers.
2-4 years	Imaginary creatures (monsters); the dark;
5-7 years	Animals; natural disasters; injury/ illness; media-based fears (e.g. killer clowns).
8-11 years	Poor academic and athletic ability.
12-18 years	Peer rejection; world issues
Adulthood	Illness, death.



When does child anxiety become a problem?

Key indicators for support:

- ◆ Avoidance
- ◆ Attainment/ attendance issues
- ◆ Not accomplishing key appropriately developmental tasks

Things to consider:

- ◆ When did the symptoms develop?
- ◆ How strong is their worry?
- ◆ Is their anxiety stopping them from doing what they want to/ should be doing?
- ◆ Is it stopping YOU from what you want to/ should be doing?



Different types of anxiety in children

Generalised anxiety/ worry

Social anxiety

Separation anxiety

Health anxiety

Phobias

Panic

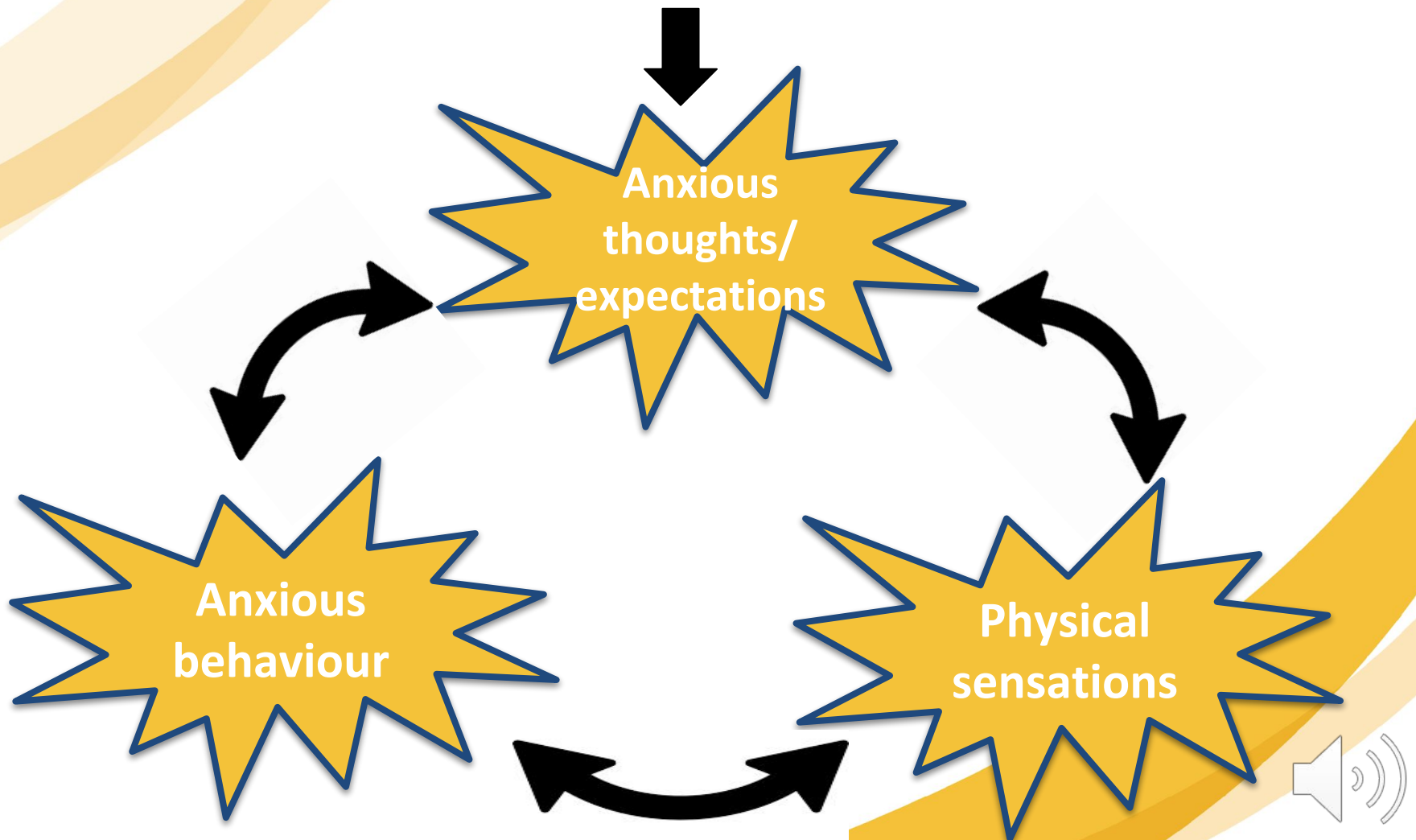
Obsessive compulsive disorder

Post trauma anxiety



Anxious cycle

Perceived anxious situation (trigger)



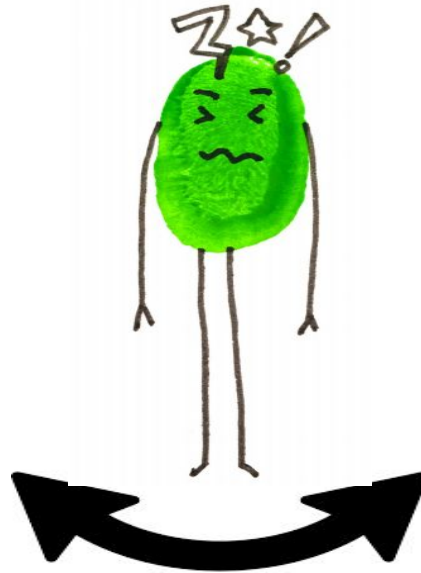
Anxiety cycle example

Trigger: answering a question at school

Thought: 'I will make a mistake and everyone will think I'm stupid.'

Behaviour: avoids putting hand up, worries about getting chosen by teacher.

Physical sensation: Shaking, sweating, throat tightens, trembling.



What to expect:

If you have any questions/ concerns please contact us at
MHST@achievingforchildren.org.uk

- ◆ Next session = 'How child anxiety may develop and factors that keep it going.'

