

BEHAVIOR IN CHARGE "All children 'behave' and all behavior is communication." (T. Hartshorne, PhD, psychologist and parent of a child with CHARGE) Our job is to figure out what the child is trying to communicate, particularly if formal language is not yet established.

Autistic Behaviors have been described, but some may be the behavioral manifestations of delayed language and being unable to oversee and overhear the appropriate social interactions of others. Those deaf children who have central visual impairment will not appear to make eye contact because they cannot see the other person's eyes if their face is turned directly at them. If people are outside their communication bubble, the children will occupy themselves with whatever is within their bubble, either objects or themselves (see Moss, below)

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) has also been described. This may be a misinterpretation if the child is visually impaired and needs order in the environment in order to move about safely. However, these many children with CHARGE are described as stubborn and single-minded, often perseverating on a topic. Teens and adults have been observed to have OCD behaviors as well. OCD may be a true manifestation of CHARGE in some individuals.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is as common in children with CHARGE as in other children. Treatment is often a challenge.

High Pain Threshold seems to be very common in children with CHARGE. Such children may not appreciate the pain they inflict on others because they do not experience it themselves and may not be able to see or hear the reaction of others (communication bubble).

Social Immaturity is a major concern of parents. These children have difficulty making and maintaining friendships. Though social isolation is typical of all people who are deafblind, those children with CHARGE appear to need very direct social interaction.