

## **bipolar disorder** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Type of Speech:**

noun <sup>[2]</sup>

### **Definition:**

Disorder characterized by periods of depression or irritability alternating with periods of mania.

### **Additional Information:**

Mania may manifest as overconfidence, high activity, risk taking, and an inability to distinguish fantasy from reality. During a period of depression, children may be sad, irritable, tired, and uninterested in activities they would normally enjoy. Some depressed children and adolescents attempt suicide. Bipolar disorder may cycle more rapidly in children than in adults, with dramatic mood swings occurring within a single day. These students are also likely to have ADD <sup>[3]</sup>, and bipolar disorder may be misdiagnosed as ADD. Treatment for bipolar disorder often includes medication, which can cause side effects such as frequent urination, nausea, and drowsiness.

**In school.** Children with bipolar disorder may benefit from:

- short, simple instructions.
- redirection to keep them on task.
- extended time on assignments or tests.

Threats of self harm should be taken seriously.

### ***For further explanation:***

The Nation's Voice on Mental Illness (NAMI) <sup>[4]</sup> website contains a question and answer page about child and adolescent bipolar disorder <sup>[5]</sup> that covers symptoms, treatments, and more. Additionally, the The Balanced Mind Foundation <sup>[6]</sup> website has resources <sup>[7]</sup> connected with educating the child with bipolar disorder, modifying the classroom, and working with students through various stages of the illness.

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**Source URL:** <https://www.ncpedia.org/glossary/bipolar-disorder>

### **Links**

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/glossary/bipolar-disorder> <sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/parts-speech/noun> <sup>[3]</sup>

<https://www.ncpedia.org/glossary/attention-deficit-disorder> <sup>[4]</sup> <http://www.nami.org/> <sup>[5]</sup> [http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?](http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?Section=By_Illness&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=13107)

[http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?](http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?Section=By_Illness&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=13107)

<http://www.thebalancedmind.org/> <sup>[6]</sup> <http://www.thebalancedmind.org/learn/education-issues> <sup>[7]</sup>