Table 1

Summary of DSM-IV/ICD-10 diagnostic criteria for the common neuropsychiatric conditions of early childhood

Conduct disorder (CD)
A repetitive and persistent pattern of dissocial, aggressive or defiant conduct. Such behaviour, when at its most extreme for the individual, should amount to major violations of age-appropriate social expectations, and is therefore more severe than ordinary childish mischief or rebelliousness. Isolated antisocial acts are not in themselves grounds for the diagnosis, which implies an enduring pattern of behaviour.

Oppositional-defiant disorder (ODD)
A persistent pattern of negativistic, hostile, disobedient and defiant behaviour. ODD is similar to CD (and antisocial personality disorder) in that the child has no regard for the rights of others and is destructive – but ODD is milder and there is little or no destructiveness or deliberate hurting of people or animals.

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or hyperkinetic disorder (HKD)
A pattern of developmentally inappropriate levels of inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity causing impairment of intellectual functioning and social relationships. HKD criteria are more restrictive than the DSM-IV diagnosis of ADHD because they need a greater degree of symptom expression. DSM-IV ADHD includes the mainly inattentive subtype, which cannot be diagnosed under ICD-10.

Autism spectrum disorders
'Classical autism'. A pervasive developmental disorder defined by the presence of abnormal and/or impaired development manifest before the age of three years, and by the characteristic type of abnormal functioning in social interaction, communication and restricted, repetitive behaviour. Children with *Asperger syndrome* do not have the severe language delays typical of others on the autism spectrum, and are usually diagnosed much later than those with other autism spectrum disorders.

Tic disorders
Tourette syndrome. Multiple motor and vocal tics present many times per day nearly every day for at least a year. *Chronic motor or vocal tic disorder* and *transient tic disorder* are milder disorders.

Developmental coordination disorder/ dyspraxia
Performance in daily activities requiring motor coordination is substantially below that expected given the child's age, intelligence and any coexisting medical disorders. The motor impairment significantly interferes with academic achievement or activities of daily living.