# **Evidence Sheet for ADHD Diet**

This program was created with the following key considerations in mind:

## Quality Protein

Protein-rich foods are used by the body to make neurotransmitters, the chemicals released by brain cells to communicate with each other. <u>Protein</u> also helps balance blood sugar levels and improves satiety. This meal plan provides high-quality protein sources such as chicken, beef, eggs, and legumes.

## Healthy Fats & Complex Carbohydrates

A balanced diet with healthy fats and complex carbohydrates can have a protective effect on the <u>risk of ADHD</u>. This meal plan is sugar-free, uses low glycemic foods, and provides over 30 grams of fiber daily. Foods containing <u>omega-3 fats</u> like tuna, chia seeds, and ground flaxseeds are included as they could improve ADHD symptoms like hyperactivity and inattention.

### Iron

Iron deficiencies are common in the ADHD population. Cognitive deficits and other ADHD symptoms have been linked to low levels of <u>iron</u>. This plan incorporates iron-rich foods like meat, fish, whole grains, and leafy greens to help you meet your daily iron goals.

### Zinc & Magnesium

Zinc can improve the brain's response to dopamine and a zinc deficiency may result in symptoms of inattention. <u>Magnesium</u> is essential for energy production and a deficiency is linked to hyperactivity and impulsivity. You can find zinc and magnesium sources in this meal plan from whole grains, legumes, seeds, eggs, and meat.