



AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER

What it is and Characteristics That May Indicate the Presence of Auditory Processing Difficulties

WHAT IS AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER?

Auditory processing is a term used to describe what happens when your brain recognizes and interprets the sounds around you. The “disorder” part of auditory processing disorder means that something is adversely affecting the processing or interpretation of the information. Children with APD often do not recognize subtle differences between sounds in words, even though the sounds themselves are loud and clear (National Institutes of Health, 2011).

CHARACTERISTICS RELATED TO LANGUAGE PROCESSING

- Problems with organizing and integrating thoughts
- Easily confused by instructions; misinterpretation of questions and/or comments
- Obsesses on one topic or idea
- Low tolerance for frustration
- Unable to successfully negotiate a conversation exchange
- Difficulty focusing on a task; short attention span; daydreaming
- Difficulty listening in the presence of noise; easily distracted by noise
- Often asked, “What?”
- Difficulty answering questions or following directions given through the auditory system
- Difficulty with pragmatics or social conversation
- Easily fatigued

CHARACTERISTICS RELATED TO SPEECH

- Flat, monotone or shrill voice
 - Weak vocabulary or nonverbal
 - Over talkative or called a “motor mouth”; this may be expected behavior at 2 years old, but by 5 or 6 years old a child should be able to engage in listening and turn-taking
 - Signing out of tune
-
- Child may also have a disorganized body schema; “can’t sit still”