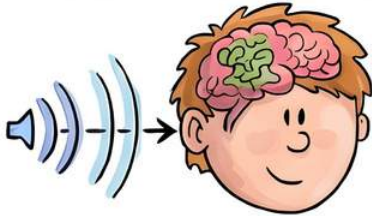


Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)

www.SocialWorkersToolbox.com

What is Auditory Processing Disorder?



Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) is when a child finds it hard to understand what they hear, especially speech, even though their hearing is normal. It is not a problem with the ears. It is about how the brain makes sense of what is heard.



What might you notice?

Your child may:

- Ask "what?" or "huh?" a lot
- Seem to not listen or get things wrong
- Struggle to follow instructions, especially more than one step
- Find noisy places overwhelming
- Take longer to answer questions
- Mix up similar sounding words
- Have difficulties with reading, spelling, or language



What does this look like day to day?

- You say: "Put your shoes on and get your coat"
Your child only puts their shoes on.
- You call their name from another room.
They do not respond.
- In a busy place, they seem confused or switch off.



How can school help?

- Sit your child near the teacher
- Give written as well as spoken instructions
- Break work into small steps
- Allow extra time to process
- Check understanding, not just listening



How can you help at home?

- Say their name and get their attention
- Keep instructions short (for example: "Shoes on")
- Give one step at a time
- Speak clearly and a little slower
- Reduce background noise (turn off TV or music)
- Use visual support - point, show, or write
- Ask them to repeat back what to they need to do



When to seek support

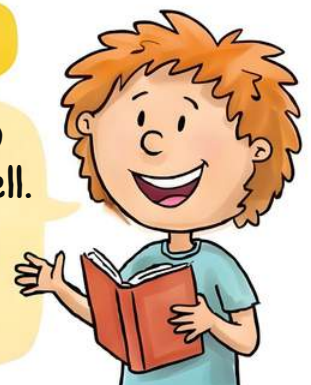
Speak to a doctor, health professional, or your child's school if:

- You are concerned about their listening or understanding
- They are struggling at school
- They often seem confused by spoken information



Key message

Children with APD can learn and do well. With the right support, things can get easier.



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