



Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)

Patient and Family Education

This teaching sheet contains general information. Please talk with your child's doctor or pediatric audiologist to get more specific information. Call **813-262-1330** to discuss whether your child is a candidate for APD testing and/or to schedule an appointment for APD testing.

What is an Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)?

APD occurs when the brain has a difficult time processing speech sounds.

- Auditory means hearing and processing means how words are understood by the brain.
- It is not a problem with the ears or with hearing sensitivity.
- With APD, the ears hear words well, but the brain does not process the information correctly. It is much like hearing a person with a strong accent speak – you can hear the words, but you have trouble understanding them.

What are the possible signs of APD?

Your child may have one or more of these:

- Cannot remember directions
- Problems in school
- Difficulty paying attention
- Poor reading or spelling skills
- Bothered by background noise
- Forgets what is said quickly
- Needs things repeated

Should my child have APD testing?

APD may not be the only thing that causes a child to have trouble learning.

- Other learning issues may be related to attention (ADD or ADHD), language, and/or reading disorders.
- For this reason, your child should be tested by an educational psychologist and a speech language pathologist to determine if these other learning issues may be affecting your child.

APD testing is not for children who:

- Have a hearing loss
- Have a language or cognitive (thinking) delay, such as autism spectrum disorders
- Are younger than 7 years of age
- Speak English as a second language

What will the test be like?

A pediatric audiologist (a person with training in performing hearing tests and helping individuals with hearing loss) will do the test. Your child will sit inside a sound booth and will:

- Have a hearing test to make sure his/her hearing is within the normal hearing range. If your child has a problem with middle ear fluid at the time of his/her testing, his/her appointment will need to be rescheduled.
- Wear earphones and listen to people talking on a CD
- Be asked to repeat words, sentences, and numbers that he/she hears

What can I do to help my child?

- Have your child study in a quiet place at home
- Keep to a regular schedule to create a daily routine for your child
- Make sure your child gets enough sleep each night
- Help your child to keep a clean and organized room
- Keep in touch with school teachers on a regular basis
- Have your child look at you when you talk to him/her

Adapted from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta teaching sheet on Auditory Processing Disorder

- Speak clearly
- Tell your child to repeat what he/she heard back to you