



National Center *for* Learning Disabilities

The power to hope, to learn, and to succeed

Auditory Processing Disorders

Challenges & Strategies by Age Group



What you should know about auditory processing disorders:

- Auditory processing disorders are often referred to as central auditory processing disorders (CAPD).
- Auditory processing disorders can occur without any kind of hearing loss.
- Auditory processing disorders affect how the brain perceives and processes what the ear hears
- Like all learning disabilities, auditory processing disorders can be a lifelong challenge.
- Many of the difficulties that are experienced by people with auditory processing disorders are also common to people with attention deficit disorders.
- Auditory processing disorders may run in families.
- Auditory processing disorders can affect a person's ability to interact socially.
- There are different types of auditory processing disorders, each affecting different aspects of auditory information processing - see "Auditory Processing Disorders in Detail" for more information.

Auditory Processing Disorders at Different Ages

Many people experience problems with learning and behavior from time to time, but if a person consistently displays difficulties with these tasks over time, testing for auditory processing disorders by trained professionals should be considered.

Early Childhood

Common difficulties:

- Learning to speak
- Understanding spoken language
- Separating meaningful sounds from background noise
- Remembering stories or songs
- Staying focused on a person's voice
- Unusual sensitivity to noise
- Confusing similar sounding words
- Difficulty in understanding speech.

Accommodation & modification strategies:

- Keep directions simple - only tell your child one step at a time.
- Give directions both orally and visually - show your child what you mean.
- Speak slowly - especially when your child is hearing information for the first time.
- Maintain eye contact while speaking.
- Limit background noise when teaching new information or giving directions.
- Provide specific opportunities to practice skills that build vocabulary, rhyming, segmenting and blending words.

School-Age Children

Common difficulties:

- Remembering and following spoken directions
- Remembering people's names
- Sounding out new words
- Seeming to ignore others when engrossed in a non-speaking activity
- Understanding people who speak quickly
- Finding the right words to use when talking.

Accommodation & modification strategies:

- Combine oral teaching with visual aids.
- Ask that teachers and others make it physically, visually or audibly clear when they are about to begin something important so that nothing is missed.
- Have a note-taking buddy who will make sure that information was understood.
- Request seating close to teacher.
- Have child repeat back information or instructions to build comprehension skills and make sure messages are understood correctly.

Teenagers & Adults

Common difficulties:

- Talks louder than necessary
- Remembering a list or sequence
- Often needs words or sentences repeated
- Poor ability to memorize information learned by listening
- Interprets words too literally
- Hearing clearly in noisy environments.

Accommodation & modification strategies:

- Find or request a quiet work space away from others.
- Request written material when you attend oral presentations.
- Ask for directions to be given one at a time, as you go through each step.
- Take notes or use a tape recorder when getting any new information, even little things.

