

## **Auditory Processing Disorders: Classroom intervention Strategies**

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Auditory processing is what we do with what we hear. Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) is the inability to properly process auditory stimuli. Children with APD may:

- Behave as if they have a hearing loss.
- Respond to speech inconsistently.
- Frequently request repetition
- Often misunderstand what is said.
- Have difficulty locating sounds
- Have a short attention span
- Are easily distracted by auditory and visual stimulation.
- Have difficulty following long directions.
- Have poor memory skills for information presented verbally.

Sometimes children who have APD are misdiagnosed as having Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Many similarities exist between the behaviors of children with APD and ADHD. However there is a key distinction between the two. ADHD can be treated with medication, APD can't. If a child is diagnosed with ADHD, but medication does not seem to help, they may actually be suffering from APD.

APD can only be diagnosed with an audiologist on the team. Audiologists test the child's ability to process auditory information under various conditions under headphones.

### **Some ways to help a child with APD:**

- Reduce background noise and reverberation.
- If you move around in the room, allow the child to move to a seat near where you are.
- Get child's attention before giving instructions.
- Have the child paraphrase directions
- Pre-teach new vocabulary/concepts
- Use a slower speaking rate.
- Allow extra time for the child to respond to questions.
- Insert pauses to allow the child to catch-up.
- Use visual aides.