



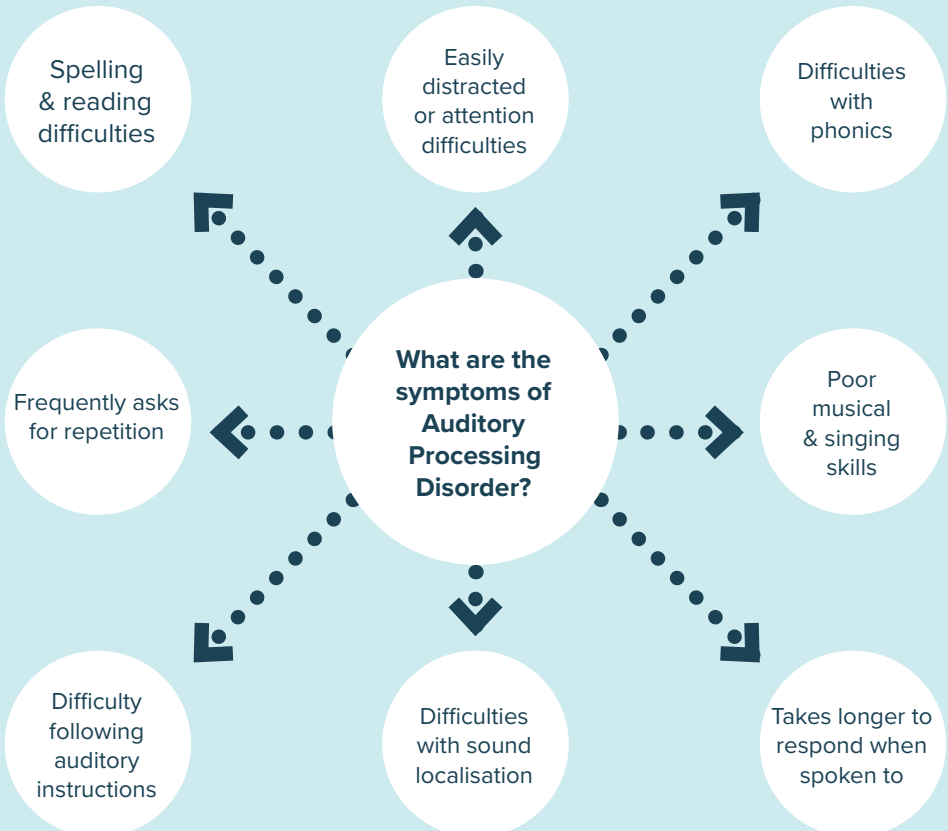
Auditory Processing Disorder

Assessment at Beacon Audiology

What is Auditory Processing Disorder?

APD is described as “what we do with what we hear”. Sometimes what a person hears and what the brain interprets might not be the same. Those with APD can hear words, but struggle to interpret what those words might mean.

APD is the inability of the ears and brain to communicate together resulting in trouble effectively recognising sounds, discrimination between different sounds or words, filtering noise and understanding the relevance and meaning of those sounds.



Things to consider before booking an APD Assessment?

1

Does the person have normal hearing?

A person requires a comprehensive hearing assessment conducted within the last 6 months in order to be assessed for APD.

2

Does the person have normal IQ?

Should a person have a learning difficulty, it is likely that they present with overall processing difficulties.

3

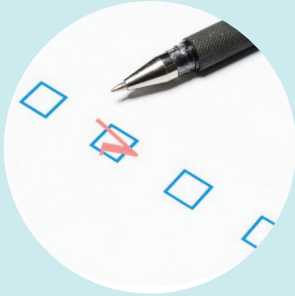
Does the person have any other diagnoses?

APD can often, but not always, co occur with other diagnoses (e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia, ASD, language disorder etc). It is also imperative that APD is distinguished from other diagnoses that can also impact auditory memory and attention (e.g. ADHD, working memory difficulties).



Please ensure to provide your audiologist with any diagnostic reports prior to the APD assessment (e.g. SLT, OT, Educational Psych, etc) to ensure an accurate diagnosis can be made.

How is APD assessed?



A thorough case history using standardised questionnaires is completed. This provides an insight into the reported functional difficulties and the impact it may have on a person's quality of life.

A full diagnostic audiological assessment is carried out to rule out the presence of a peripheral hearing loss. APD can only be diagnosed when there is no hearing loss present.



A standardised screening is then completed. This evaluates whether a person is at risk of APD. This also identifies the main areas of difficulty which guide the diagnostic test battery.

The diagnostic assessment uses special tests designed to assess the various auditory functions of the brain. The results are compared to the available age appropriate normative data. Should a person meet the criteria, a diagnosis of APD can be made.



How to treat an APD

The results of the diagnostic test battery will guide our specific APD management plan. The recommended intervention may include aspects of the following:

1

Environmental adaptations - By changing the learning environment, enhancing access to sound through the use of a personal FM system or low gain hearing aids.

2

Auditory training - Aims to enhance a person's auditory perceptual skills. This is often completed using online auditory training programs at home (e.g. LACE, CAPDOTs, FastForWord, etc). Recommended programmes are based on the difficulties identified.

3

Enhancing a person's language and cognitive skills - Through the use of teaching specific listening skills, auditory memory exercises and speech and language therapy where possible.





BEACON AUDIOLOGY

HEARING & BALANCE



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