

Beacon Audiology provides a comprehensive audiological service encompassing all aspects of hearing, hearing aids and balance assessments.

Our clinic is equipped with the best and most up to date equipment and technology necessary to perform our Audiological duties.



CHILD HEARING



NEWBORN HEARING



FULL HEARING ASSESSMENT

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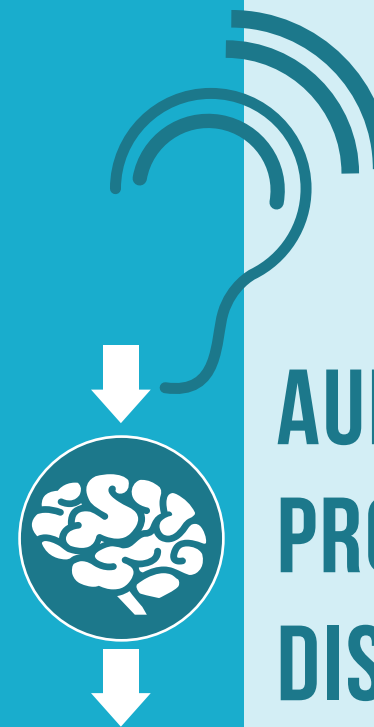


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AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDERS

what we do
with what
we hear



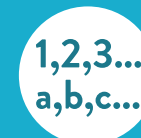
MEMORY



ATTENTION



PROCESSING



SEQUENCING



BEACON AUDIOLOGY
HEARING & BALANCE

WHAT IS AN APD?



An 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.



APD covers a multitude of difficulties involving an inability of the ears and brain to communicate, resulting in trouble effectively recognizing sounds, discriminating between different sounds, and understanding the relevance and meaning of those sounds.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF APD?



Children with CAPD may exhibit some of the following characteristics:

- Misunderstanding messages
- Difficulty paying attention
- Being easily distracted
- Difficulty following complex auditory directions or commands
- Difficulty learning songs / nursery rhymes
- Associated spelling and learning problems
- Difficulty understanding spoken language in noisy backgrounds / reverberant environments
- Frequent requests for repetitions
- Taking longer to respond in oral communication situations
- Poor musical and singing skills
- Difficulty localizing sound
- Inconsistent or inappropriate responding

STEP 4

Diagnostic Audiological Assessment

Once you have established that neither peripheral hearing, global IQ, attention, nor language deficits are contributing to the child's listening difficulties, a comprehensive diagnostic assessment can be conducted.

STEP 3

Rule out a language disorder

It is imperative that the speech-language pathologist make every effort to distinguish APD from a subtle language comprehension deficit especially if there is poor auditory memory for instructions or difficulty recalling sentences / information.

STEP 2

Rule out attention, memory and IQ-related disorders

In order to make an accurate diagnosis of APD, it is necessary to view it as a discrete entity, apart from other childhood problems such as attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD) specific language impairment (SLI) and dyslexia.

STEP 1

Rule out peripheral auditory involvement

A child needs to have had an up to date hearing test within the last 6 months.

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE BOOKING AN APD TEST



HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

APD is an auditory deficit; therefore the Diagnostic Audiologist is the professional who diagnoses this condition.

APD is assessed through the use of special tests designed to assess the various auditory functions of the brain. The diagnostic test battery assesses the integrity of the central auditory nervous system, determines the presence of an APD and examines a variety of auditory performance areas.

The test battery used is a process and not test driven. It is motivated by the referring complaint and the relevant information available and includes some of the following tests (Dichotic Listening, Temporal Process, Auditory Discrimination and Degraded Speech Signals/Speech-in-Noise). The test battery takes two hours to administer and includes a comprehensive hearing test.



HOW TO TREAT AN APD

1

changing the learning or communication environment (personal FM systems)

2

enhancing the individual's auditory perceptual skills (FastForWord, LACE, CapDots)

3

enhancing the individual's language and cognitive resources.