What is Auditory Processing Disorder?

Auditory processing refers to our brain’s ability to make sense of what we hear. Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) is characterized by difficulty recognizing, discriminating, comprehending, and/or remembering auditory information. Individuals with APD typically have normal hearing and cognitive abilities.

Signs and Symptoms

Listening difficulties may include the following behaviors:

- Says “huh” or “what” frequently
- Often misunderstands what is said
- Difficulty following oral instructions
- Difficulty listening in the presence of noise or in group conversations
- Easily distracted or bothered by sounds

People with APD may have reading, spelling, and/or other academic problems. Difficulty with interpersonal communication and behavior problems at school, home, or work also may be exhibited.

Assessment of APD

APD is associated with deficits in one or more of the following areas: decoding of speech sounds, integration of auditory information, auditory attention, auditory closure skills, and short-term auditory memory.

Testing for APD can be performed for individuals ages 6 years to adult and includes a comprehensive hearing assessment and evaluation of auditory processing skills. The battery of tests is based on presenting complaints and identifies auditory weaknesses that make listening difficult. Because APD can underlie some higher-level disorders (e.g., dyslexia and language impairment), this assessment can assist with differential diagnosis and guide accommodations.

Audiologists and speech-language pathologists at the UNCG Speech and Hearing Center also provide auditory training and therapy services as needed. Intervention is tailored according to each client’s listening difficulties. Contact us for more information about treatment options.
Appointments

Appointments are required for an APD assessment or consultation. All paperwork must be completed and returned to the Center before an appointment will be scheduled. Copies of all related professional reports are requested prior to the assessment.

Morning and afternoon appointments are available Monday through Thursday (9:00 am or 1:00 pm). Evaluations are planned for three hours, with short breaks provided as needed.

Hours of Operation

Business hours are Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Center follows the adverse weather policy of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Fees

Fees are due at the time of service. Payment methods include cash, personal checks, and Mastercard/Visa. Financial arrangements can be made for qualifying clients. Contact the billing administrator for more information at (336) 334-5939.

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UNCG Speech and Hearing Center
300 Ferguson Building
524 Highland Avenue
Greensboro, NC 27402

Phone (336) 334-5939
Fax (336) 334-4475
E-mail: csd@uncg.edu
Website: http://csd.uncg.edu/shc

Faculty and Staff

Services are provided by graduate student clinicians and faculty in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Faculty members are NC licensed and nationally certified speech-language pathologists and audiologists with experience in evaluating and treating APD.