

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



ADDvanced Solutions
Supporting you to find the answers

Auditory Processing Difficulties (Disorder)

Auditory processing disorder (APD) makes it difficult for a child/ young person to understand what they are hearing; and this makes everyday life more difficult in many ways. If a child/young person has APD it means that they will have difficulty with several of the following things:

- Difficulties in following more than one instruction at a time.
- Use visuals! A child/ young person with APD will find it difficult to follow instructions or an activity which has no visual input (pictures/ videos).
- They often don't process what is said the first time, so it will need to be repeated. If you raise your voice on having to repeat the instruction they will be taken aback, as they probably don't realise you said it before!
- Noisy places will cause them to be very uncomfortable, upset, or anxious.
- Their difficulty in processing may make them seem disinterested, when the effort of staying tuned in becomes too much. Be careful of misunderstanding them.
- They may find it easier to listen if they are not looking at the person speaking.
- They may also have a limited memory for strings of words and will struggle with complex language like word puzzles and riddles.
- They may not hear the difference in words that sound similar, such as swap and swat, or page and paid.
- They can miss the point of jokes, because they haven't processed the whole thing fully.
- They will have expressive language difficulties and will tend to speak in simple sentences.
- Reading may be difficult, and they may have trouble with vocabulary and spelling.

These difficulties will result in varying problems for different children, but without our understanding and support they will lead to frustration and a loss of confidence.

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Tips for Teachers

- If the pupil is easily distracted, sit them away from high traffic points, such as the desk near the door or a place that everyone must pass. Windows can also be very distracting and can be the source of noisy interference.
- **Keep coming back to key phrases and information throughout the lesson.**
- Rephrase your explanations to add another level of understanding.

If you are a teacher of a pupil with APD, it is important that you are aware of the difficulties they may have and adapt your teaching style accordingly.

- **Avoid monologues without any visual aids: use pictures, videos and relevant objects to illustrate your lessons.**
- Make your communication accessible by using open expressions and gestures.
- **Make use of whiteboards, computers, flipcharts etc. – be creative!**
- If the pupil has access to an assistive listening device, support them in using it in your classroom.
- **Be aware of their strengths and interests; give them opportunity to use them.**

It will be very supportive of their learning if you could give them information about the lesson to read beforehand – this could be part of homework, or time could be given at the beginning of a lesson.

- It may be helpful to allow another pupil to share their notes with them.
- **Chunking: break longer tasks down into more manageable chunks.**

Provide homework on clearly written sheets; ideally showing the homework for the full week ahead. Perhaps you could set a YouTube video on the subject as a homework to encourage familiarity (make sure you check the content!)

For further information and support contact us on: