

## **What is Auditory Processing Disorder?**

An Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) is a deficit in interpreting auditory information. Our ears detect sounds, but it is our brain that helps us figure out what those sounds mean. Typically, a person with an Auditory Processing Disorder has normal hearing, but the brain has difficulty interpreting speech and other sounds in a meaningful way.

## **What are the Symptoms of APD?**

- Difficulty attending to and/or discriminating sounds
- Difficulty remembering and/or recognizing sounds
- Difficulty comprehending auditory information – may require extra time to process information
- Difficulty hearing if there is too much background noise
- Difficulty following conversations
- Difficulty following spoken instructions with many steps (complex directions)
- Difficulty with speech and/or language development
- Difficulty spelling, reading, and/or writing
- May get easily distracted or has difficulty maintaining concentration
- Poor listening skills and/or may get tired after listening for long periods of time
- Academic performance does not correspond to learning potential
- Improved performance in one-on-one situations

## **Who is a Candidate for APD Testing?**

- Anyone **over the age of seven years old** who displays a combination of these symptoms and whose intellectual potential appears to be within normal range
- Anyone with no present diagnosis that could explain the symptoms (i.e., Autism Spectrum Disorder, global developmental delays, etc.)
- Anyone who has not been diagnosed with permanent hearing loss

## **Who Can Refer for APD Testing?**

- Healthcare professionals (Physicians, Speech-Language Pathologists, Psychologists, etc.)
- Educational professionals (Teachers, Resource Teachers, etc.)
- Parents/caregivers (not available in all Audiology centers)

### **How Do I Refer Someone for APD Testing?**

Send a regular referral to the Audiology Department requesting APD testing. An appointment will be given for a hearing evaluation and APD screening. If a full APD assessment is warranted, it will be arranged through the Audiology Department.