**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.