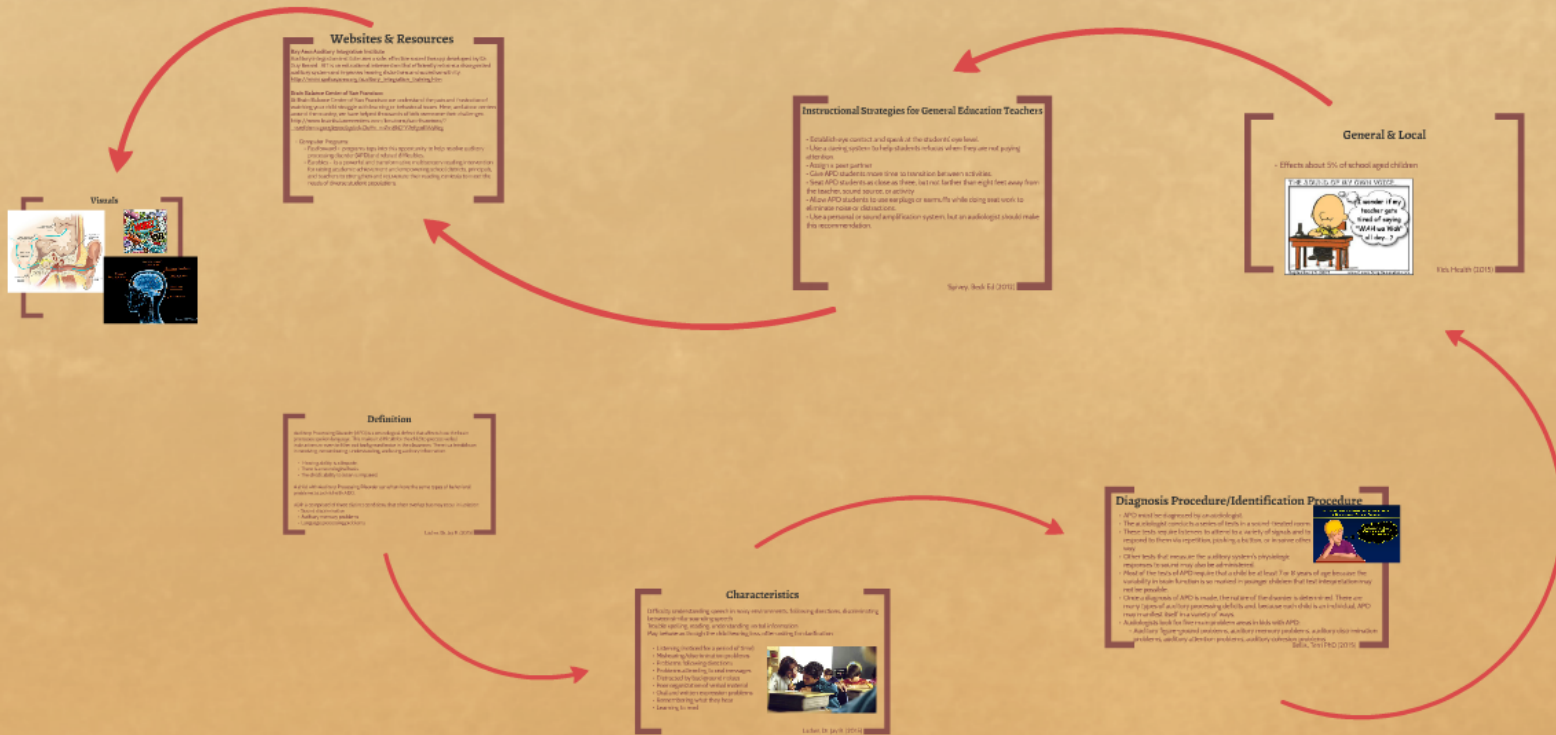


Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)



References

1. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2005). *Practical Guidelines for the Identification and Assessment of Children with Auditory Processing Disorders*. Silver Spring, MD: ASHA.

2. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2005). *Practical Guidelines for the Identification and Assessment of Children with Auditory Processing Disorders*. Silver Spring, MD: ASHA.

3. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2005). *Practical Guidelines for the Identification and Assessment of Children with Auditory Processing Disorders*. Silver Spring, MD: ASHA.

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Definition

Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) is a neurological defect that affects how the brain processes spoken language. This makes it difficult for the child to process verbal instructions or even to filter out background noise in the classroom. There is a breakdown in receiving, remembering, understanding, and using auditory information.

- Hearing ability is adequate.
- There is a neurological basis.
- The child's ability to listen is impaired.

A child with Auditory Processing Disorder can often have the same types of behavioral problems as a child with ADD.

ADP is comprised of three distinct conditions that often overlap but may occur in isolation:

- Sound discrimination
- Auditory memory problems
- Language processing problems

Lucker, Dr. Jay R. (2015)

Characteristics

Difficulty understanding speech in noisy environments, following directions, discriminating between similar sounding speech

Trouble spelling, reading, understanding verbal information

May behave as though the child hearing loss, often asking for clarification

- Listening (noticed for a period of time)
- Mishearing/discrimination problems
- Problems following directions
- Problems attending to oral messages
- Distracted by background noises
- Poor organization of verbal material
- Oral and written expression problems
- Remembering what they hear
- Learning to read



Lucker, Dr. Jay R. (2015)

Diagnosis Procedure/Identification Procedure

- APD must be diagnosed by an audiologist.
- The audiologist conducts a series of tests in a sound-treated room.
- These tests require listeners to attend to a variety of signals and to respond to them via repetition, pushing a button, or in some other way.
- Other tests that measure the auditory system's physiologic responses to sound may also be administered.
- Most of the tests of APD require that a child be at least 7 or 8 years of age because the variability in brain function is so marked in younger children that test interpretation may not be possible.
- Once a diagnosis of APD is made, the nature of the disorder is determined. There are many types of auditory processing deficits and, because each child is an individual, APD may manifest itself in a variety of ways.
- Audiologists look for five main problem areas in kids with APD:
 - Auditory figure-ground problems, auditory memory problems, auditory discrimination problems, auditory attention problems, auditory cohesion problems

AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDERS (APD):
A Common and Serious Problem



Bellis, Terri PhD (2015)

General & Local

- Effects about 5% of school aged children



Kids Health (2015)

Instructional Strategies for General Education Teachers

- Establish eye contact and speak at the students' eye level.
- Use a cueing system to help students refocus when they are not paying attention.
- Assign a peer partner
- Give APD students more time to transition between activities.
- Seat APD students as close as three, but not farther than eight feet away from the teacher, sound source, or activity
- Allow APD students to use earplugs or earmuffs while doing seat work to eliminate noise or distractions.
- Use a personal or sound amplification system, but an audiologist should make this recommendation.

Websites & Resources

Bay Area Auditory Integration Institute

Auditory integration institute uses a safe, effective sound therapy developed by Dr. Guy Berard. AIT is an educational intervention that efficiently retrains a disorganized auditory system and improves hearing distortions and sound sensitivity.

http://www.spdbayarea.org/auditory_integration_training.htm

Brain Balance Center of San Francisco

At Brain Balance Center of San Francisco we understand the pain and frustration of watching your child struggle with learning or behavioral issues. Here, and at our centers around the country, we have helped thousands of kids overcome their challenges.

http://www.brainbalancecenters.com/locations/san-francisco/?_vsrefdom=googleppc&gclid=Clu9v_mZm8kCFYZefgod1WsBeg

- **Computer Programs:**

- **Fastforward** - programs taps into this opportunity to help resolve auditory processing disorder (APD) and related difficulties.
- **Earobics** - is a powerful and transformative multisensory reading intervention for raising academic achievement and empowering school districts, principals, and teachers to strengthen and rejuvenate their reading curricula to meet the needs of diverse student populations.