

Auditory Processing Tip Sheet

What is an auditory processing disorder?

An auditory processing disorder adversely impacts an individual's ability to process and interpret sound which enters the ear unimpeded. Individuals have difficulty differentiating between sounds and words when the sound and clarity is appropriate. An individual may not be able to determine the location of a sound or be able to organize sequences of sounds. Additionally, individuals with an auditory processing disorder usually have a great deal of difficulty blocking out background noise, struggling to focus on pertinent information.

A child may be experiencing a sensory processing disorder if:

- They have difficulty processing language-based tasks or instruction
- They struggle to remember language-based tasks or instruction
- They process thoughts slowly and struggle to articulate them
- They mispronounce similar sounding words
- They struggle to understand figurative language, puns, and jokes
- They cannot block out background noise
- They have difficulty understanding complex sentence structure
- They seem to ignore others, when focused on something else
- They say, "What" frequently, sometimes even before all instruction is given

Strategies:

- Give "wait time" when you expect a response
- Communicate in short, concise sentences
- Reduce the number of directions given at a time
- Give cues such as, "ready?"
- Pair verbal directions with visuals or model the expectations
- Vary the pitch and tone of voice to draw attention
- Alter the pace of words, emphasizing key words through volume and repetition
- Ask specific questions to check for understanding
- Allow the student to verbalize what they are doing and supposed to be doing
- Create a highly redundant environment—give lots of opportunity for repetition
- Minimize distractions—close the door, preferential placement in the room (front, closest to teacher/instruction)

Sources:

<https://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/auditory-processing-disorder/>

https://www.aitinstitute.org/ait_works.htm