

Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)

Auditory processing disorder (APD), also known as central auditory processing disorder (CAPD) is a disorder of the auditory system at the level of the brain in the auditory cortex.

It results in an individual having difficulty understanding sounds they hear, including what people say. They may seem as though they have a hearing loss, as they may not follow directions or seem to mishear or misunderstand what is said to them.

A person with APD may struggle to understand speech, particularly in background noise. They may miss the pragmatic aspects of speech and not understand jokes or sarcasm. They may demonstrate difficulty remembering or summarizing information presented verbally. APD is NOT a phonological processing disorder.



What are the symptoms of auditory processing disorder (APD)?

Symptoms of auditory processing disorder (APD) can be subtle and can include having trouble with:

- Telling where sound is coming from.
- Understanding words that are spoken quickly or in a noisy room.
- Paying attention.
- Reading and spelling.
- Following directions unless they are short and simple.
- Learning a new language.
- Singing or enjoying music.
- Understanding and remembering spoken information.



Locations

We currently offer Auditory Processing Disorder testing at our:

- Appleton Clinic
- Kenosha Clinic
- Milwaukee Campus

How Is Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) Diagnosed?

At Children's Wisconsin, we take a multidisciplinary approach with our APD team, which is composed of an audiologist, speech-language pathologist and psychologist. They review the patient's past medical records and school records and determine the most appropriate assessment plan.

APD testing is completed by an audiologist, during which the patient will be asked to participate in several different listening tests. Testing can last up to two hours and requires attention and effort from the child.

In order to be tested, a child must:

- Be at least 7 years of age
- Have normal hearing
- Speak clearly enough so that most of what they say is understood by an unfamiliar listener

If Auditory Processing Disorder Is Diagnosed, What Is the Treatment?

There are several subcategories of APD diagnoses, so recommendations will be tailored depending on the findings of the evaluation.

The APD team will give families recommendations, many of which are implemented in the school setting and may include:

- Preferential seating
- Written instructions
- Quiet study areas
- Listening breaks
- Listening devices, such as an FM/DM system

Can Auditory Processing Disorder Be Cured?

The cortical areas responsible for auditory processing continue to mature until a child is 12-13 years of age. Some resulting listening challenges can improve with age or therapy, but some children may have APD throughout their entire life.



Send Referrals to Central Scheduling.

- **Internal referral via Children's Epic**
Send an ambulatory referral to Audiology.
- **External referral via Epic**
Send to CHW AUDIOLOGY CLINICS.
Include Auditory Processing Disorder in the notes/comments.
- **Via fax**
(414) 607-5288
- **Online Ambulatory Referral Form**

