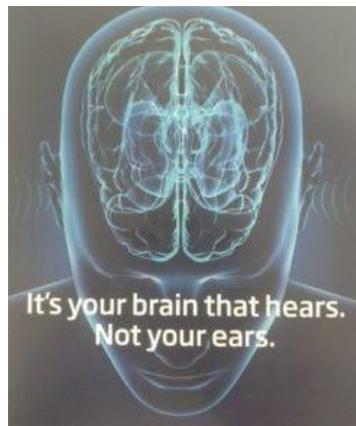


APD REMINDER 13



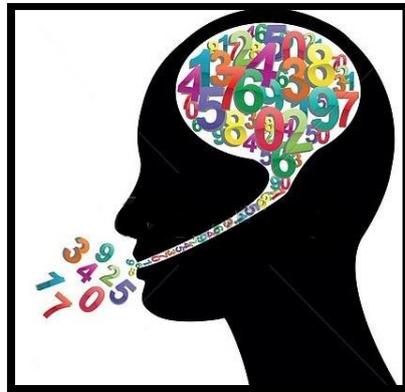
APD is a medical condition of neurological origin. This disorder affects the way the brain processes what is heard.

The brain is a vital part of the hearing process, so APD should also be considered to be a hearing problem. APD can exist in people who hear perfectly well, and in those who also have hearing loss.

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APD REMINDER 14

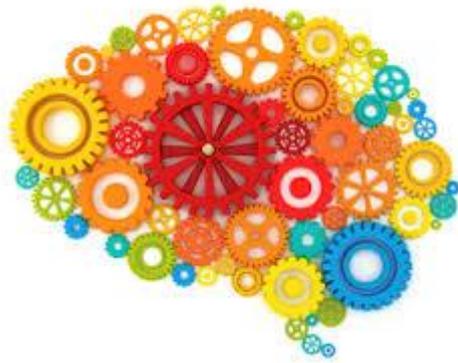


APD is more common than people think. Recent international research has indicated that APD is thought to be present in 2-7% of children and over 20% of adults. Its prevalence increases steeply in children with learning difficulties, with up to 40% of these children having Auditory Processing deficits.

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APD REMINDER 15



APD affects everyone uniquely, with a different collection of difficulties and varying severity. APD rarely exists in isolation. There might be any number of other unrelated co-morbid conditions and difficulties with reciprocal impact. These are children with complex needs. Diagnosis and tailored support for all suspected conditions and difficulties is essential.

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APD REMINDER 16



APD can run in families. It can also develop from other causes. These include frequent ear infections leading to glue ear, also head injury, or other brain damage from e.g. epilepsy, drugs, alcohol, certain medication. There might be damage before, during and after birth, effects from other conditions, plus other suspected causes. It can develop at any age; there are many adults with late onset APD due to illness or injury. The cause is not important: what matters is learning to cope.

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APD REMINDER 17



APD can affect receptive and/or expressive language, both spoken and written. There can also be word retrieval and auditory memory difficulties. APD can also lead to poor social skills and communication difficulties. Social anxiety is common, making it hard for people with APD to make friends. They can become vulnerable, isolated, and prone to bullying. All of this needs support.

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APD REMINDER 18



Some people with APD find it very difficult to be interrupted when speaking. They can lose their train of thought and may have to start again from the beginning. Please be patient and allow them to finish.

Some people with APD might take longer to express themselves, using roundabout ways of saying things, especially if they have a problem finding the right words. Others speak simply and use plain language – this may also be how they prefer to be spoken to, in order to understand.

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APD REMINDER 19



Some people with APD find it very difficult to use the phone and other technology because of degraded sound signals and problems with understanding unfamiliar voices. Online face-to-face/verbal chat may be difficult too, so using text chat might be preferable. Radio, television and visiting the cinema can cause similar difficulty, but subtitles can help. Misunderstanding the lyrics of recorded music is also common.

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APD REMINDER 20

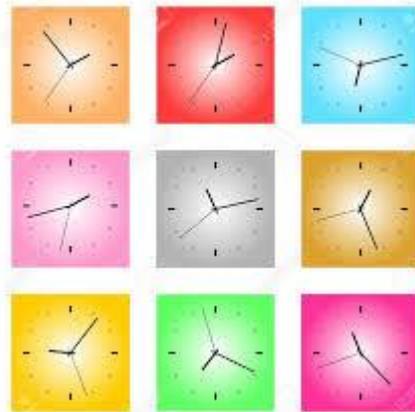


Some people with APD can be very easily distracted. This doesn't necessarily mean they have an attention deficit problem. Distraction can occur because the other senses are heightened to compensate for the APD. It also doesn't mean that people with APD don't pay attention all the time, aren't listening or have 'selective hearing.' They have to pay attention, even when it may be difficult, or they will miss more of what is going on. Having APD doesn't mean they are lazy: they *have* to work harder to compensate.

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APD REMINDER 21



APD can be random in its effects during the day or even within an hour. This doesn't mean a person with APD is making it up if they appear to be able to understand at one time and not another. People with APD will have good days and bad days. They can also be affected by illness, tiredness and stress, making it harder to cope when the body's resources are diverted to dealing with these factors.

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APD REMINDER 22



A person with APD will believe what their brain is telling them, as anyone would, even if they have misunderstood an instruction. Part of the instruction may be missing, or they might get it all totally wrong. A child with APD might argue that they were told to do something totally different to what their parent or teacher said. This is not rudeness, it's because they have either not processed or understood what was said. How would you feel?

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APD REMINDER 23



APD can cause delayed processing of verbal information, sometimes many hours later, or even the next day. A child with APD may not recall what happened at school until much later. Children with APD should never have school breaks taken away (either to complete unfinished work or for any other reason) or they may go into sensory overload or reach saturation point; nothing more will be taken in until they have rested.

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APD REMINDER 24



Learners with APD should receive minimal homework, and only when necessary. This should be suitably differentiated at all times and contain SMART targets. If they cannot complete it alone, it's too difficult. If they have not fully understood the work from the day, or have information gaps, then reinforcement of that topic will be futile. They can become extremely tired and need to relax in the evenings, to delay-process information and rest.

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