

AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER (APD) FACTSHEET

Do you (or does your child, or someone you know) often struggle to understand what you hear, even in a quiet room (but worse if it's noisy)? Do you forget what you hear, or carry out spoken instructions incorrectly or in the wrong order? Maybe you muddle up similar words, or have problems with using the phone, or understanding unfamiliar voices or accents? Anyone can experience some of these at times; but if it happens often, it could be APD. If APD is suspected, please read and share this document.

WHAT IS APD? APD is a problem with the way that the brain processes speech. This can affect understanding what we hear, and how we respond and lead to many other issues. APD is neurological in origin (we need the brain to work properly, to process speech effectively so we can understand what we hear). We need to understand what we hear to be able to communicate effectively in all areas of life, throughout life. APD doesn't cause hearing loss, but it is considered a hearing condition by the World Health Organisation/WHO. It can exist with hearing loss too, also any other number and variety of unrelated conditions, disabilities and difficulties. In the UK, only a consultant audiovestibular medicine or audiologist with specialism in APD is suitable to diagnose APD, in children and adults.

HOW COMMON IS IT? APD is thought to affect as many as 7-10% of children (or up to 40% if those children also have learning difficulties) plus an estimated 20% of adults.

WHO IS AFFECTED? You can be born with APD, or acquire it at any age from various causes.

WHAT IS APD SUPPORT UK? APD Support UK is the only organisation providing APD information and support for UK individuals and families affected by APD, like:

- details of where to find APD testing/diagnosis for children and adults
- free, printable information about APD with practical support for daily life, in education, and at work plus APD information for professionals
- online support groups for adults with APD, parents, and loved ones
- template letters to use if you are refused referral for testing/support etc.
- "The Listener" - our free newsletter with articles by those with APD and others.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, VISIT: <https://www.facebook.com/APDSupportUK>