

APD TESTING CENTRES



Alyson Mountjoy, Chair APD Support UK

APD is a medical condition of neurological origin, not a learning difficulty, although it can cause learning difficulties in some people. Therefore, only an appropriate medical specialist, (a consultant in audiology or audiovestibular medicine, in fact), is qualified to diagnose APD. Diagnosis is essential; it is not just about education; it can affect all aspects of life in some way. It isn't simply a question of having it or not: everyone is **UNIQUELY** affected. Appropriate and adequate support (at school, at work, for life) depends on accurate diagnosis. *This list will be updated as additional full APD testing centres become available. If anyone feels that their local hospital or testing centres should be added, please ask them to email me on apd.support.uk@aol.co.uk

PLEASE read all criteria carefully: if a child fails to meet them, the referral **will** be refused. If you do have a referral refused, contact the testing centre and ask why, or ask your GP or whoever referred you to do so. Knowing might help you to gain a referral elsewhere. Waiting lists are also considerably longer now due to COVID-19 lockdown. Further information about APD and access to support can be found here: <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/about-apd.php>

NHS TESTING FOR CHILDREN IN ENGLAND

- **Great Ormond Street Hospital, London/GOSH for children from 7 to 15 and a half (before 16 at the time of testing). For over 16s please see the section for adults.**

UPDATE: GOSH **will** now also accept referrals for children living **outside** the M25 area too (Outer and Inner London). Please make sure that your child meets their criteria **before** seeking a referral - acceptance is decided on a case-by-case basis. See: <https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/medical-information-0/auditory-processing-disorder/>
Email: Audiology.info@gosh.nhs.uk Appointments: Rangee Ramamoorthy, 0207 813 8315

N.B. GOSH now also offers full private testing for £750. Please contact them for details.

- **The Nuffield Hearing and Speech Centre**

This is a multidisciplinary APD service for children age 7-15. Dr Chrysa Spyridakou and Prof Doris Bamiou are the consultants there. Please make sure that your child meets their criteria **before** seeking a referral. They are available here. <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/diagnosis.php> Acceptance is decided on a case-by-case basis.

Referral criteria: (as of February 2022)

1. **Age:** minimum developmental age 7 years
2. **English should be first language**
3. Child should be able to perform pure tone audiometry and should have normal hearing thresholds in both ears, normal middle ear function in both ears and TEOAEs present (**Audiological test results should be attached with referral and the assessment should be within 3 months of referral**)
4. There should be **symptoms indicating APD**, e.g., listening difficulties with background noise
5. Child should have a non-verbal IQ over 85
6. Child should have a formal standardised speech and language or cognitive assessment if there are difficulties with learning. If there are no school/academic concerns we will need a copy of the most recent school report which confirms that the child performs average for the core subjects
7. **Reports** from speech and language therapists, educational psychologists and paediatricians **should be attached with the referral.**

Who can refer:

GPs, Hospital or Community consultants, Speech and Language therapists, psychologists, audiologists. **They will accept out of area referrals from England and Wales** if your GP, hospital, Clinical Commissioning Group, Local Health Board or NHS trust agree to pay. Despite the address being ENT, APD referrals **MUST** be made to the department of **paediatric audiovestibular medicine** (referrals anywhere else can will cause delays or your referral may never reach the correct clinic).

GPs **must** refer using the online booking system to **paediatric audiovestibular medicine** (remember, not to ENT or paediatric audiology) Any other professionals can refer in writing. A referral must be accompanied by copies of any assessment reports that you have had (SALT, EP etc) and the recent hearing test results. The referral should include as much information as possible about the child and the suspected APD. Your child must also have had a hearing test in the 3 months before referral to confirm there is no **hearing loss** and **glue ear/ grommets in place**. They cannot test a child with these conditions in an NHS testing centre, and you will have to seek private testing. They hold just one clinic a month.

Contact details and address for referrals (apart from GPs):

Paediatric Audiovestibular Medicine

Royal National ENT and Eastman Hospitals

Address: 47-49 Huntley Street, London WC1E 6DG

Telephone: 020 3456 7890

Website: <https://www.uclh.nhs.uk/our-services/find-service/ear-nose-and-throat-services-1/paediatric-speech-disorders-clinic/paediatric-auditory-processing-difficulties-clinic-apd>

- **Fulwood Audiology Clinic**

Dr Ansar Ahmmed, Consultant Paediatric Audiovestibular Physician is the consultant. They cover Greater Preston, Chorley South, Ribble, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre, and Morecambe Bay area. They do **not** take out of area referrals

The criteria are:

- they will accept referrals from a GP, audiologist, Education Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist, Paediatrician, ENT departments or a school nurse
- they do not need any specific report to accompany a referral as long as the referral letter explains the concerns and the reason for referral

- they will accept children between 6 and half and 16 years of age
- they will accept children with “high functioning ASD” and ADHD
- they will **not** accept children with hearing loss and NVIQ less than 80

They carry out a preliminary assessment in the first stage to find the suitability for APD testing. Referrals should be made to:

Dr Ansar Ahmmed, Consultant Paediatric Audiovestibular Physician

Fulwood Audiology Clinic

4 Lytham Road

Fulwood

Preston

PR2 8JB. Tel: 01772 401310

NHS TESTING IN SCOTLAND AND NI

There is currently no full testing service provided in Scotland or NI for children or adults. However, a separate document is available on the website with details of NHS screening for children in Scotland for patients who live in Scotland.

<https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/diagnosis.php>

NHS TESTING FOR ADULTS IN ENGLAND ONLY

This is the only centre in England providing full NHS testing for adults:

Prof Doris Bamiou, Royal National ENT and Eastman Hospitals

Address: 47-49 Huntley Street, London WC1E 6DG. Telephone: 020 3456 7890

A recent hearing test is needed before referral and the report must be sent with the referral. NHS waiting lists for this are long. Certain opticians e.g., Specsavers/Boots also provide hearing tests for adults, but they might charge for the report.

NHS TESTING IN WALES - CHILDREN AND *ADULTS

The Hearing Institute based at UHW Cardiff - for children age 7 plus. (*They also test children 16 plus and adults). The consultant is Dr Rajenderkumar. With just one clinic a month, there is a long wait for a consultation then another waiting period before an appointment for testing, if indicated. Please note: This centre will not test children with autism, and they only see NHS patients living in Wales. A recent hearing test is needed for adults, and the report is to be sent with the referral. A recent hearing test is needed before referral and the report must be sent with the referral. NHS waiting lists for this are long. Certain opticians e.g., Specsavers/Boots also provide hearing tests for adults, but they might charge for the report.

APD Testing Clinic, Welsh Hearing Institute (Audiology), University Hospital of Wales

Heath Park, Cardiff, CF14 4XW. Tel: 029 2074 3474 / 07807 457952

Email: audmed@hotmail.co.uk

Website: <http://www.cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/audiology>

PRIVATE TESTING IN WALES

There is currently no private APD testing in Wales.

PRIVATE TESTING IN ENGLAND (for children only)

- **Southampton University** (N.B they are currently not accepting new referrals due to addressing their COVID backlog. Please check the website for updates or contact them direct. <http://ais.southampton.ac.uk/auditory-processing-disorder/> This is a private, 2-tier, multi-discipline children's service. Level 1 merely includes screening, assessments to see if APD is likely, Level 2 provides the testing to confirm it. The team is headed by Dr Nicci Campbell who is the current Chair of BSA APD Interest Group. She is a key author of BSA APD guidelines and its position statement. They also offer dyslexia screening at Level 1. Both Level 1 and Level 2 testing are recommended unless decided

against by the consultant. Due to increased demand, Southampton University is now only taking referrals from those living in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset, West Sussex and the Isle of Wight. Their new criteria can be found here. <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/diagnosis.php>

- **The Portland Clinic** in London have 2 new consultants for APD private diagnosis of children: Dr Chrysa Spyridakou and Dr Anu Shete. Address: 205 - 209 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5AH Direct line: 02073906573.

PRIVATE TESTING PROVIDERS IN ENGLAND FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

- **Prof Doris Bamiou.** You can book yourself: no referral is needed. Prof Bamiou is in the process of moving premises (and is no longer seeing patients at the London Hearing and Balance Centre). Until further notice, initial consultations for children and adults are now being held at 10 Harley Street, London, W1G 9PF. This list will be updated when the move has been made to the new premises. For details and to book, please contact Ms Veronica Davey. v.davey@lhbc.co.uk
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- **The Hearing Clinic, Hertfordshire** - Bridgitte Harley.

<https://thehearingclinic.co.uk/> You can book yourself: no referral is needed.

Tel: Radlett - 01923 372101; Hitchin - 01462 506074

The Hearing Clinic will see children for APD diagnosis from the age of 7. They can screen for APD from the age of 5 using Acoustic Pioneer (full version). The LiSN S test can be carried out from 6 years of age. The Hearing Clinic can also assess Adults. They have a new adult testing protocol and now offer an adult management program. Please visit <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/diagnosis.php> for their "Adult Testing Protocol" document containing full details.

They cannot see children with severe speech and language impairment, significant cognitive impairment, severe/untreated ADHD or Autism unless high functioning. They can test children who are able to understand the test instructions and actively

listen for at least 25 minutes at a time. They do allow for listening breaks during the testing.

Prior to attending the appointment, parents are asked to complete some questionnaires which will help gather additional information on your child. Adults attending for APD assessment will also be asked to complete some pre-appointment questionnaires.

These are the tests that they can use during their APD assessments. First, they carry out a full diagnostic hearing test to rule out hearing loss. A further document is available here: <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/diagnosis.php>

1. Binaural Interaction: LiSN S test
2. Auditory Closure: Word lists in quiet & with ipsilateral noise
3. Dichotic listening: Dichotic Digits Test
Staggered Spondee Word Test
Competing Sentences Test
4. Phonemic Synthesis test
5. Temporal Processing: Pitch Pattern Test (temporal patterning)
Duration Pattern Test
Random Gap Detection Test (temporal resolution)

Additional documents can be found here:

<https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/diagnosis.php>

➤ **Audiology Planet** - Dr Jay Jindal. For children and adults.

Prices: Insurance clients are welcome; prices for insured clients can vary, dependent on insurance companies as they dictate the fee for tests in the contract. For self-funded the charge is £850 for full testing, whether that takes one or two/more appointments. Self-referral is accepted.

Criteria: They will see children for hearing/listening assessment when they are 5-7 years old but do **not** give a diagnosis for this age group. There are some tests e.g., phoneme synthesis test, SSW, and speech in noise that have norms for below 5 years and give a good starting point to understand the listening needs of this age group. An

official diagnosis is **not possible** for kids below 7 years so, **for APD diagnosis they don't see anyone below 7**. They don't accept abnormal IQ (usually below 80), severe speech and language issues, untreated ADHD, children with ASD (unless very high functioning and not impacting the ability to perform the testing), other cognitive issues affecting the ability to test, significant hearing loss whether permanent or temporary (conductive). For known temporary hearing loss like glue ear, they will only test children for APD when glue ear is resolved.

Clinics: There are clinics in London (Lycahealth), Sevenoaks (Springbank Clinic), Tunbridge Wells (Nuffield Health), and Dorking, Surrey (Medwyn Centre).

Bookings should be made yourself for children and adults – no referral is needed.

Secretary (for bookings): Ms Nicki Thompson

Tel: (+44) 075436 64692; 0330 2233 453

Email: audiologyplanet@outlook.com

Enquiry form: <https://www.audiologyplanet.com/auditory-processing-disorder/>

➤ **The APD Clinic: Cristina Murphy PhD**

<https://www.theapdclinic.co.uk/>

Please read The APD Clinic Information sheet here for full details.

<https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/diagnosis.php>

You will need to provide:

- the result of a recent hearing test /audiological assessment (including tympanometry, acoustic reflexes and pure-tone audiometry with extended high-frequency)
- **and** the results of previous relevant assessments.

The assessment involves three appointments.

Appointment 1 - Preliminary assessment. You will be sent specific questionnaires that must be filled in and send back before the appointment. All this information will be discussed during this appointment. This first stage is essential to confirm if you or your child is suspected of having APD and has no other concern that would prevent you or your child from performing the AP tests, such as a cognitive or severe language impairment. The outcome will indicate whether you or your child should proceed to Appointment 2 or be referred to another specialist.

This will be discussed with you at the end of this appointment.

Appointment 2 - AP (Auditory Processing) assessment. This includes an in-depth investigation of the listening difficulties through behavioural tests that assess all the key listening aspects through an integrative approach. Those tests are delivered through an audiometer, a laptop and a tablet via headphones. All those tests are well-validated with norms for different age ranges.

Appointment 3 – Results and Recommendation. The result of the AP assessment, as well as the recommendations, will be explained in detail. The comprehensive report is sent to the referring doctor or health care professional.

Inclusion criteria: They will test adults and children (minimum age 7 years)

Exclusion criteria: They will **not** test adults or children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (except High-Functioning ASD), abnormal IQ, or a severe speech and language disorder.

APD Testing Prices:

Auditory Processing Assessment (Appointments 1, 2 and 3): **£850.**

Preliminary assessment (Appointment 1 only): **£250** - in case appointments 2 and 3 are not recommended.

A separate Management Programme for children is also offered, details of which can be found in their .pdf document here <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/diagnosis.php> along with the information above. This involves tailored therapy (not AIT). Price **£1600.** Acceptance **is decided** on a case-by-case basis.

N.B. You can have APD testing there with **no obligation to undertake the management programme**. You can contact them direct to undertake the management programme **even if diagnosed elsewhere**. No referral is needed for the management programme, just contact the clinic and send your/your child's APD diagnosis report. Enquiries for both AP assessment and Management programme should be sent to info@cristinamurphy.co.uk Tel: 020 74678353.

- **Hear Pure and The All Medical Group:** for children and adults.

Hear Pure has two testing centres, one at Birmingham and Chester. The All Medical Group covers London (based at Rickmansworth). APD testing is priced at £650. In addition, they all offer FM systems and other APD management services (priced separately).

All three centres provide full testing and are headed by Dr Amjad Mahmood (Head of Audiology at Great Ormond Street/GOSH) and staffed by other members of the APD testing centre at GOSH.

CRITERIA FOR CHILDREN - at all centres: please read carefully.

- Minimum age at the time of referral should be no less than 7 years.
- The developmental, cognitive, speech and language ability of the child should be a minimum age of 7 years.
- There should be suspicion of APD by educational/healthcare professionals such as teachers, Speech and Language Therapists (SALTs), educational psychologists or clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, ENT surgeons, paediatricians, audiologists, or their GP (please refer to BSA APD information and Guidelines (<http://www.thebsa.org.uk/bsa-groups/group-apdi/>)).
- The child should have normal hearing thresholds in both ears with normal middle and inner ear functions – demonstrated by audiology assessment within 12 months of referral, please attach results.

- A SALT report must be provided, done within the last 2yrs; please attach to the referral.
- An Educational Psychologist report or a developmental review by a paediatrician within the last 2yrs, please attach to the referral

EXCLUSIONS – At all centres, children with the following will not be accepted:

- 1) Untreated ADD/ADHD
- 2) Autism (unless high functioning autism)
- 3) Severe speech and language disorder
- 4) Cognitive delay (e.g., Down Syndrome, certain chromosomal abnormalities). Non-verbal IQ should not be below 85.
- 5) Patients should not have any neurological conditions

The three clinics also accept adults by self-referral. In all cases, please contact the testing centre direct.

CONTACT DETAILS

In all cases, please contact the testing centre direct.

The All Medical Group: <https://www.theallmedicalgroup.com/auditory-processing-disorder-apd>

22 Church Street, Rickmansworth, WD3 1DD

Email: info@theallmedicalgroup.com

Hear Pure: <https://www.hearpurekids.com/>

- Birmingham: 38 Harborne Road, Birmingham, B15 3EB

Email: info@hearpure.com

- Chester: 1A Hoole Rd, Chester CH2 3NQ

Email: info@hearpure.com

PRIVATE TESTING IN SCOTLAND AND N.I.

There is currently no private testing available in Scotland or NI for children or adults.

PRIVATE TESTING IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

There is also a document on the website with details for Beacon Audiology which provides private APD testing for children and adults in Dublin in the Republic of Ireland, via self-referral and it is open to all who can travel there

<https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/diagnosis.php>

OUT OF AREA REFERRALS

Under NHS Patient Choice, parents/patients in England have the right to be referred to whichever hospital or consultant you choose, especially if there is no comparable testing in your area, and the same applies to your child <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/hospitals/about-nhs-hospital-services/>

There is a legal precedent set as out of area referrals are made all the time; it is just a question of them refusing because they surgery or hospital have to pay for the testing. Another reason is that screening may be available locally but as explained below, this is not recommended unless you have no other option. If your GP or audiologist etc. refuses to refer out of area, please contact your local Clinical Commissioning Group. <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/Clinical-Commissioning-Group/LocationSearch/1> (NHS Patient Choice does not apply in Wales, Scotland or NI).

APD Support UK also provides a **letter template for adults and children in England refused a referral for APD testing at the centre of their choice. This can also be adapted for patients in Wales (by removing the reference to NHS Patient Choice). Other templates are also available, requesting provision of additional local APD testing centres and reasonable adjustments at school and at work. <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/promoting-apd.php>

WHY IT IS RECOMMENDED NOT TO GO ANYWHERE NOT LISTED ABOVE

Other places, including NHS hospitals and private organisations and charities, may offer 'testing' which may just be basic screening/assessment and may not lead to a valid diagnosis. It can result in limited and, in some cases, unreliable and incomplete testing and generic recommendations. This is virtually useless when children are affected uniquely and have various other conditions impacting on the APD and vice versa. Children with (sometimes severe) APD have been missed by some of these assessments, and later found to have APD and diagnosed by a centre on this list. It is for parents to decide whether locality is preferred over quality of testing; what is important is the expertise of the audiologists involved in accurately interpreting the results. Of course, everyone is free to choose where they go; these centres are only recommended on the basis of the information that they have provided. If you are unhappy with the service you receive, at the listed centres or elsewhere, please make a complaint **to that centre** (see the bottom of this document).

If you are unhappy with the lack of APD testing centres in your area, please contact your local health board or Clinical Commissioning Group and MP to request that standardised testing is provided locally. It is your right as a parent or adult with APD to do so.

**You can use the letter template here. <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/promoting-apd.php>

HOW TO GET A REFERRAL FOR CHILD TESTING

To start with, your child needs a hearing test at around the time the referral is requested - it has to be within 3 months before referral and a referral cannot usually be sent until after the child turns 7 for NHS testing (for the Nuffield it is 8). Hearing loss and glue ear must be ruled out first and grommets should not be in place. It is difficult to test for APD with hearing loss and usually cannot be done during an NHS appointment due to time constraints. Glue ear needs to be treated before testing can take place; they would not, and should not, test a child with glue ear because results are skewed by the intermittent hearing loss that accompanies glue ear.

If the hearing test shows no hearing loss and glue ear, then you can request a referral. To meet the usual criteria, you will **FIRST** need a report from a relevant professional stating that APD is suspected - please contact the centre you want to be referred to, for their criteria if not listed on my website. Any other suspected conditions and speech and language issues **MUST** be diagnosed before referral; they won't test a child with hearing loss, glue ear, severe autism, Downs Syndrome, ADHD not receiving treatment or SLI/specific language impairment, all of which can lead to child being unable to respond appropriately to testing.

PLEASE NOTE: Please contact the testing centres yourself to check concerning excluded co-existing conditions **before** getting a referral sent. Please don't have a referral sent in the hope that it will be added to the waiting list: if it is rejected and you will have wasted valuable time. A hearing test is also advised before seeking referral as an adult.

The professionals' page of the website includes "A guide for medical professionals" dispelling myths around why referral is not possible, and explaining why screening alone does not provide a diagnosis. Also please take APD Support UK's recommended "APD referral process" for medical professionals when you seek a referral. <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/professionals.php>

Request a referral from your GP, paediatrician or audiologist (or others listed in the criteria from the centre you choose) asking them to send all reports, and send all the information they can about the child's difficulties (it would help if you can provide them with a list of your observations and the school's). I would also read and take along the "About APD" sheet from my website. You will also find most of the frequently asked questions about APD answered in that document. <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/about-apd.php>

None of the testing centres will consider a referral without professional suspicion of APD and all appropriate reports being sent with it. If in doubt, contact the centre of your choice direct.

WHAT FULL APD TESTING SHOULD INCLUDE

I have been advised that there are sadly no national APD testing guidelines at present. Most eminent audiologists agree that there should be a full test battery approach but the practice varies from one service to another. Different individual assessments plus tests may be used, but the areas of auditory processing tested should be roughly the same as listed above, and selected based on the problems that each child has and the presentation, also considering the other issues the child has. Not all children will need all the tests that can be used; it will depend on what type of APD difficulties seem to be causing a problem.

Check they don't only use assessments based on SCAN-C, SCAN-A, SCAN-3, or Feather Squadron. These are just screening tools **and alone they will not provide full APD testing leading to a valid** diagnosis. They can be used as initial assessment to see which further tests are needed and a diagnosis cannot be given without further testing.

Each testing centres provide a similar, full range of testing which can take 1.5 to 2 hours of testing, plus waiting time. In the UK, **only** a consultant audiovestibular medicine or audiologist with specialism in APD is suitable to diagnose APD, in children and adults. No other professional can do this. It is a medical condition, so a SALT, SENCo or Educational Psychologist cannot diagnose it and neither can an Occupational Psychologist, GP or Paediatrician or any other type of medical professional. N.B.: Please read the criteria for the individual testing centres provided, or contact them to check before seeking a referral. Make sure you also send any requested reports. Also, ensure the referral is sent to the right place. This will all avoid wasting time and prevent getting a referral which may be refused if your child doesn't meet the criteria, or you don't send appropriate reports and need a second referral, which your GP etc. may refuse to send again.

THE TESTING PROCESS

As an example of the standard of testing and the process that you should expect to receive at any of the recommended testing centres, this is what is normally provided. Testing might take place on one or two days at some of the private testing centres, maybe three, so it is best to ask when booking. The recommended centres will follow

a similar process, although testing for each individual child may vary slightly and not every test may be necessary, depending on the child's presenting difficulties. You only need 2 difficulties of a certain severity to get a diagnosis of APD (despite some sources incorrectly saying you need them all). Symptoms can be found in "About APD" here. <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/about-apd.php>

The initial consultation

First, they take a detailed and comprehensive history, looking at problems that the child has, parents' concerns, teachers' concerns, speech and language reports, cognitive issues, reading, written work, memory issues, other diagnoses e.g., Autism, ADHD, learning difficulties. Any visual problems, current educational environment and support, pre, peri and post- natal problems, developmental milestones, past history of middle ear, neurological and other mendicant problems, ear problems etc. plus family history will also be considered.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to COVID, the initial consultation may now take place over the phone or Zoom etc. with a testing appointment at a later date and possibly a third appointment for the results. NHS centres make every effort to complete the process over a few appointments as possible but some private clinics may take a different approach, where indicated. PLEASE remember: the actual testing MUST take place in person or it will not result in a valid diagnosis. All necessary COVID-19 precautions are taken at the testing centres.

The testing

- There is an examination of ears, general examination, and an observation of speech quality. **N.B if your child is suffering from hay fever or earwax on the day, this can prevent testing. Please take preventative measures beforehand**

The APD tests themselves are selected based on the reports, discussion and suspicions raised in the consultation. They should test from this list, as applicable:

- Tests of peripheral auditory function
- Cochlear feedback pathway

- Ability to hear degraded speech
- Ability to hear speech in noise (if needed in quiet)
- Spatial processing
- Binaural resolution
- Temporal processing
- Auditory pattern sequencing

They can request other tests that are relevant, e.g., Electrophysiology (ABR, corticals) and MRI, if applicable. The audiologist has to have sufficient knowledge to interpret these, understand the losses or conditions that may affect the outcome of each test, and if there are other issues e.g., language issues, how that might affect the test results and interpretation. The audiologist also needs to have a very broad understanding of intervention available and find the most suitable to help the child. Testing will be tailored to your child's needs and it consists of wearing headphones in a soundproof room – nothing scary at all.

N.B. You are not obliged to complete forms relating to other conditions at an APD assessment, either on the day or if sent by post, unless the centre provides a multi-discipline service. If sent/given to you, please ask beforehand what the questionnaire is for. Any research relating to you or your child needs your agreement and permission. Only APD diagnosis can be given at an APD testing centre, not any other conditions. If any other condition is suspected by the consultant, please request a referral for appropriate testing (if this is not done automatically).

The results

The test results are usually explained in person on the day of testing, or as soon as is possible afterwards. Make sure you understand what the results mean, the specialist should take time to explain it and you have a right to be told, in plain English, what the results mean for your child or yourself, plus the diagnosis. If you have APD, ask for the important points to be written down there and then

(If seeking private testing, I would personally you to specifically ask whether you are paying for full APD testing to the level and standard listed; also, if what they provide qualifies as an audiological diagnosis of APD. Get it in writing before you pay. You should also be provided with a full explanation, diagnosis and report after private testing).

The diagnosis report

This will follow by post; please allow a few weeks. Check the report when you receive it; it should say whether the child has been given a diagnosis of APD/Auditory Processing Disorder (which means that there is enough evidence of 2 or more separate difficulties of qualifying severity to merit that APD diagnosis). But if it says that there are auditory processing difficulties, that is **a diagnosis** of auditory processing difficulties. That means that there is not enough evidence of 2 or more separate difficulties of qualifying severity to merit a full APD diagnosis. It does not mean that there is nothing wrong: even one difficulty needs support.

They might just give a diagnosis of Spatial Processing Disorder: this is a stand-alone diagnosis of one specific APD difficulty affecting locating the direction of speech. If that was the only difficulty found of qualifying severity, that is not a full diagnosis of APD. As stated earlier it needs 2 or more, so Spatial Processing Disorder **plus** one or more other difficulties of qualifying severity **would** merit a full APD diagnosis.

*Other testing centres apart from those mentioned above may not be able to give a diagnosis of APD/Auditory Processing Disorder if they have no consultant to verify the results. The report may then say auditory processing difficulties even if the child has APD, but that might not be the case, so contact them to check. Such centres will clearly state that what they are giving is **not** a valid APD diagnosis).

A report will be sent to you with the test findings; make sure you request one or it may just be sent to the person that referred you/your child. Testing centres mentioned above may vary in their format. but the report should be expected to provide a description of the tests used, a clear explanation of the test scores/results, the diagnosis where applicable) and recommendations for school/work support. These may be, reasonable adjustments that take the form of support or equipment, which are a legal obligation for your child's school/ or your employer to provide. It might also

include recommendations for testing by other professionals if there are any other suspected conditions, and whether they will make a referral or ask your GP to. Do so. Also, the report should contain clearly explained, tailored recommendations based on **your** child's test results, not a generic handout.

Whatever the outcome, following NHS testing, a copy of the report should be sent to your GP. Private testing providers may not do this. In either case, it is best for you to provide one for your GP to add to their records for the person who was tested.

Be mindful of what the report tells you: it might affect your child's support and/or benefits claims. Ideally, any recommendations for provision should be as specific and quantified as possible, avoiding vague wording. If your report does contain vague wording, you should write to the consultant who wrote the report and request the report is amended, vague wording removed and replaced with wording that makes it perfectly clear, what is required.

- Examples of vague wording: 'access to' or 'may benefit from' etc.
- Examples of better wording: 'requires' or 'needs' or 'must'.

Please also contact the consultant or private testing provider if there is anything you don't understand, have any questions, or need an explanation of the technical terms used in the report, the report is taking a long time to be sent, or its recommendations are not implemented by the school because the wording is unclear or does not convey **need** rather than a suggestion.

IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THE SERVICE PROVIDED

It is up to parents or adults with APD to make sure that they get the service that they deserve, whenever they seek APD testing and diagnosis for their child or themselves, either privately or otherwise. You are within your rights to complain (and ask for a refund, if private) if you are unhappy with the service provided, or feel that you have been misled. We provide as much information as is sent to us. It is your choice where to go, and we hold no responsibility for the service you receive or the outcome.

If you are unhappy with the APD testing provided by one of the testing centres listed here or elsewhere, it is your legal right to make a complaint. If they acted inappropriately, or were rude/dismissive to you or your child, failed to explain the diagnosis fully or with care, failed to carry out appropriate testing or took money under false pretences, report them to the appropriate hospital, following their complaints policy. Private providers should have their own complaints policy. Trying to encourage parents or adults to undertake expensive treatment with the promise of success, or buy equipment that they do not want, is also unethical. After the complaints process has been completed, if you are still not satisfied you can escalate your complaint to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

<https://www.ombudsman.org.uk/making-complaint>

COMPLAINTS

For any questions on referral, testing and diagnosis, or if you feel a centre has misled you in any way, or failed to provide what was promised, or you have concerns, please contact your chosen testing centre.

SUPPORT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

On my website <http://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com> there are plenty of APD-related articles, handouts and useful hints and tips (for parents and those with APD of all ages), including A4 posters, plus APD alert cards with designs for children, teenagers and adults. There is also a list of all my current APD support groups for parents, also for teenagers and adults with APD, both UK and international.

For more information and access to online Facebook support groups for parents, adults with APD and supportive professionals, please visit the APD Support UK website. <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/>

For further information on APD: <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/about-apd.php>

For additional criteria and documents provided by some of the testing centres: <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/diagnosis.php>

For “The Listener” - the APD Support UK newsletter:

<https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/newsletters.php> Good luck on your APD journey.

APD Support UK is here to help. We are listening.

Alyson Mountjoy

Chair APD Support UK.

Email: apd.support.uk@aol.co.uk