

PEDIATRIC SPEECH THERAPY NEWSLETTER



AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER

Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) is an auditory deficit related to how the central nervous system interprets auditory input. This deficit is not due to any higher-order or global disorder. Therefore APD is often confused and misinterpreted due to its application to different disorders. Children can have APD with a higher-order disorder such as autism or Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), but they are not directly related. It is important to receive a careful and accurate diagnosis (Bellis, n.d.).



Common characteristics of APD:

- Difficulty following directions and understanding speech in noisy environments
- Difficulty discriminating similar speech sounds
- Frequent requests for repetition or clarification
- Difficulty spelling, reading, and understanding verbal directions and information

APD cannot be diagnosed based on these symptoms alone, as most of these symptoms mimic other disorders. Only a multidisciplinary team can come to a diagnosis after careful consideration of the child's academic performance and cognitive functioning. After a child receives a diagnosis, treatment is followed through with a highly individualized plan (Bellis, n.d.).

Each plan will have three key areas to incorporate:

- **Change to the environment:** This can help a child process auditory information more effectively.
- **Compensatory strategies:** These might include strengthening skills in language, problem-solving, memory, attention, and more.
- **Remediation:** Target characteristics of APD by using individualized treatment activities.

References – Bellis, T. J., PhD, CCC-A. (n.d.). *Auditory Processing Disorders (APD) in Children*. Retrieved November 07, 2017, from <https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/Understanding-Auditory-Processing-Disorders-in-Children/>



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FOR CHILDREN WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

Approximately two or three children in every 1,000 are born with a hearing loss in one or both ears (HLAA, n.d.). The degree of the hearing loss can vary as can the utilization of hearing aids. For individuals with severe or profound hearing loss, a cochlear implant can be an option. A cochlear implant is a small device used to help individuals with sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL). Children with SNHL experience hearing loss due to damage to the hair cells in the cochlea. This impairment to the hair cells inhibits electrical signals to the auditory nerves within the inner ear. Typically, SNHL is congenital, meaning the hearing loss is present at birth. This type of hearing loss cannot be cured, but can be improved through intervention and the use of a cochlear implant.

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ASK A THERAPIST



MAINTENANCE AND CARE FOR HEARING AID DEVICES

Frequent care and maintenance ensures that your child's hearing aid is functioning properly. Here are a few things to consider when checking the condition of your child's device.

Listening check

It is important to perform a daily listening check on your child's hearing aid using a stethoset, which resembles a doctor's stethoscope. Once the tube is connected, insert the stethoset into your ears and speak. If the hearing aid is fully functioning, you should hear your voice through the stethoset earpieces. If the sound comes through crackly, muffled, or unnatural in any way, consult your audiologist as it may indicate a problem with your child's hearing aids.

Battery check

Issues with hearing aids often stem from battery issues. As a result, it is important to regularly check the batteries. Hearing aid batteries need to be replaced every one to two weeks. Use a battery tester to check the power of the batteries to make sure they have sufficient power.

Cleaning

Regular care for your child's hearing aids is vital, as many factors can cause damage to the device. When you clean the device, avoid moisture and dirt as grime can clog the microphone input, damaging the hearing aid.

References – *Life is ON.* (n.d.). Retrieved November 06, 2017, from <https://www.phonak.com/us/en/support/getting-started/maintenance-for-hearing-aids.htm>
Maintenance of Children's Hearing Aids. (n.d.). Retrieved November 06, 2017, from <https://usa.bestsoundtechnology.com/siemens-hearing-products/hearing-aids-for-children/handling/cleaning-and-maintenance>

APP OF THE MONTH: Kids Sound Lab



Ages 4+

Target Skills

Education



About The App

This app helps prepare key phonological skills by teaching sounds in isolation, then practicing sounds in syllables and words.

Speech and Language Development for Children with Cochlear Implants **Continued...**

A cochlear implant serves as a direct source of electrical input to the inner ear, stimulating the auditory nerve (ASHA, n.d.). Cochlear implants do not restore hearing but allow individuals to recognize cues for speech perception (Svirsky, Robbins, Kirk, Pisoni & Miyamoto, 2000).

Speech and language development in children with cochlear implants can vary and is dependent on several known factors. A major factor to consider is the age of implantation. A child as young as 14 months old can receive a cochlear implant if he or she meets the appropriate criteria (Sperandio, 2017). Several studies have found that language development in children younger than 18 months of implantation was similar to that of a child with typical hearing (Ganek, McConkey Robbins & Niparko, 2010).



Additional factors include post-surgical healing and the duration and frequency of therapy. The initial multidisciplinary team comprises of the otolaryngologist and audiologist, however, after surgery, this team will expand to include developmental pediatricians, educators, and speech-language pathologists (ASHA, n.d.). Speech-language pathologists evaluate a child's communication skills, target areas such as phonological awareness, and provide recommendations for intervention (ASHA, n.d.).

The onset of language is often delayed, but children will begin to recognize sounds in the weeks following the implant. Being able to recognize and distinguish sounds leads to babbling, the first stage of language. Along with this recognition, a child will begin to react to different sounds (Sperandio, 2017). Recognition and reaction are important in the development of phonological awareness and sound discrimination, which will lead to the development of vocalization skills. These skills are building blocks for forming strings of syllable combinations and first words (Sperandio, 2017).

References – *Cochlear Implants.* (n.d.). Retrieved November 07, 2017, from <https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/Cochlear-Implant/>

America, H. L. (n.d.). *Basic Facts About Hearing Loss* | Hearing Loss Association of America. Retrieved November 07, 2017, from <http://www.hearingloss.org/content/basic-facts-about-hearing-loss>

Sperandio, D. (2017, February 09). *Language Development for Children with Cochlear Implants.* Retrieved November 07, 2017, from <https://blog.medel.com/language-development-children-cochlear-implants/>

Svirsky, M. A., Robbins, A. M., Kirk, K. I., Pisoni, D. B., & Miyamoto, R. T. (2000). *Language Development In Profoundly Deaf Children With Cochlear Implants.* *Psychological Science*, 11(2), 153–158.

Ganek, H., McConkey Robbins, A., & Niparko, J.K. (2012). *Language outcomes after cochlear implantation.* *Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America*, 45(1), 173-185.
Doi: 10.1016/j.otc.2011.08.024

SPEECH THERAPY SPOTLIGHT

Aspire Speech & Learning

About Kathryn Wage

Kathryn has worked in the field of speech-language pathology for more than 40 years and has been at the forefront of bringing new therapies to clients in the area. A graduate of California State University, Fresno, she has dedicated her career to improving communication skills for both children and adults. Her career has included working in public schools and for the state of California, teaching classes at Fresno State and Fresno Pacific Universities, and founding a private practice, Aspire Speech and Learning Center, formerly known as the Center for Communication Skills. Kathryn is often called upon to provide independent educational evaluations for students whose necessary services are difficult to determine. She is a life-long resident of Fresno and lives with her husband Herman. Together they have two adult children living in Fremont and Frankfurt, Germany and a dog named Sophie.



Why Kathryn loves being a speech therapist:

I cannot think of any better gift to give others than the gift of a personal connection through communication. Communication is essential to being human and to lifelong development. I believe each person has the capacity and desire to communicate; some of us just need help to find the way. I love the process of solving these challenges and helping people reach their potential.

Testimonials

"Kathryn knows children and communication issues. I trust her skill and judgment, and that of her entire staff."

"Kathryn has gathered knowledgeable and compassionate speech therapists at Aspire Speech and Learning Center. She has made a place where all are welcome."

"Kathryn Wage has created a vital resource that is unique to Central California providing needed therapy and educational support services to individuals of all ages. I know first-hand because my granddaughter, now a junior in college, is excelling in writing and English."

Would You Like Additional Copies of this Newsletter to give as a **FREE** Resource?



If so, email us at:

Grow@AspireSpeech.com

Please include the address of your office & how many additional copies you would like.



Concerned About Your Child's Speech or Development?

**Call us today for a free consultation
(559) 228-9100**

About Aspire Speech & Learning Center

Aspire Speech and Learning Center, formerly Center for Communication Skills, is a premier provider of speech therapy services and academic support in the greater Fresno area. Kathryn Wage and her team of experienced speech therapists have a long-standing and well-deserved reputation for providing services that improve the lives of their clients. The therapists are well known for supporting parents in improving optimum functional outcomes for their children. The practice has grown rapidly since moving to the California Learning Connection and provides services through a wide range of payer options, both public and private, and receives referrals from top pediatrician practices and elite preschools around Fresno. We offer free consultations to prospective clients to help determine the best fit for our offerings.

Contact Aspire Speech & Learning at Grow@AspireSpeech.com or call (559) 228-9100

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We Appreciate All of Your Referrals

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It helps us know we are doing a good job.



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Do you have thoughts or feedback? If so, we would love to hear from you.
Just email: Grow@AspireSpeech.com



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