

AUDITORY PROCESSING

Auditory processing is the ability to recognise and understand what is heard in the environment. Discriminating between and interpreting sounds and remembering and understanding what is heard, are all elements of auditory processing. Effective auditory processing is important in the development of language skills, communication and comprehension. Children who have difficulties with auditory processing may appear as though they are not listening or concentrating.

The following recommendations and activities can help children to develop their auditory processing skills. However, it is important to remember that difficulties with auditory processing can cause difficulties with completing tasks due to the increased levels of concentration required to understand instructions and complete activities.



Recommendations:

- Minimise instructions to one at a time – these can be increased as ability develops
- Allow children time to process information
- Use visual clues through demonstration, gestures, pictures or written lists where relevant to support verbal information
- Reduce auditory distractions in the environment where possible; for example, turn off the radio and television

Activities:

- Simon Says
- Whispering
- Musical Chairs/Musical Statues/Twister
- Noise Recognition Games – e.g. using a tape of sounds or noise-producing toys out of view
- Spotting the wrong word in a story – e.g. 'The Three Little Digs'
- Getting your child to act out simple stories as they are narrated
- Counting how many times a noise is heard in the environment
- Find a hidden noisy object – e.g. an egg timer or a bleeping stop watch

Notes:

