

## Auditory Processing Disorder APD

Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service is not able to support children with Auditory Processing Disorder

### What does this mean?

- A child / young person (CYP) with APD has difficulties processing sound and speech.
- APD may not be a hearing loss per se as the CYP may have normal hearing, but it can be an invisible disability.
- Some CYP may have APD in addition to a hearing loss.
- A child with APD may present as if they have a hearing difficulty.

### Implications for learning

#### The CYP may:

- Be able to repeat what has been said word for word but are unable to process the information and make sense of it.
- Find it difficult to express themselves clearly when speaking.
- Have difficulties understanding written information.
- Find it challenging to stay focused.
- Benefit from improved acoustics or the use of a personal radio aid or class sound field system.
- Find listening in background noise more challenging.

### Ways to help

- Seat the CYP at the front of the class with a clear view of the teacher.
- Do not give out information when children are moving around.
- Keep all background noise to a minimum. Close doors / windows. Switch off unused equipment.
- Carpeting / soft furnishings / blinds can help reduce reverberation.
- Check with the CYP regularly to ensure they understand. Always ask open questions or ask for explanations. Never ask, "Do you understand?"
- Written support such as handouts or bullet points may be helpful.
- Discretely check understanding and rephrase information that is not understood.
- Chunk information. Weak auditory memory may mean they hear the first part but not the rest.
- Ensure the CYP is using any equipment recommended consistently and effectively.
- Always use subtitles on videos (check accuracy). Ensure discussion does not take place with the lights off.

#### Other resources

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

**Related Sheets:  
Classroom Acoustics  
Radio Aids**