

## Central Auditory Processing Disorder

### What is CAPD?

CAPD is a problem with the understanding and processing of spoken information. CAPD is not a hearing loss, although it may appear that the child has a hearing loss because s/he is not responding to what has been said.

### Statistics

- The prevalence of CAPD in children is estimated to be between 2 and 3%. It is twice as prevalent among boys than girls
- It often co-exists with other disabilities such as speech and language disorders or delays, learning disabilities or dyslexia, social and/or emotional problems, and attention deficit disorders with or without hyperactivity.

### What Causes CAPD?

Many neurocognitive functions are involved in the processing of auditory information. Some are specific to acoustic signals, while others are more global in nature (e.g., attention, memory, language representation). CAPD can be defined as a deficiency in any one or more of these functions.

### Symptoms

Symptoms of CAPD include difficulty with:

- Hearing in noisy situations
- Learning a foreign language or challenging vocabulary words
- Remembering spoken information (i.e., auditory memory deficits)
- Taking notes
- Maintaining focus on an activity if other sounds are present
- Following multi-step directions
- Reading and/or spelling

### Assessment

Audiologists are the professionals responsible for the assessment and diagnosis of CAPD. The evaluation is made up of special tests designed to assess the various auditory functions of the brain. These include monaural low-redundancy speech tests, and binaural interaction tests.

### Management

- Enhancing auditory perceptual skills
- Enhancing the individual's language and cognitive resources
- Improving the quality of auditory signals