



## What are the Signs of an Auditory Processing Disorder?

When someone has Auditory Processing Disorder (APD), they experience challenges in comprehending auditory information despite having normal hearing ability. APD is a specific learning disability and is not related to hearing loss but rather how the brain processes sound. Additionally Individuals with APD can hear clearly but may struggle to understand specific sounds. Here are the typical signs of APD:

- The child may have difficulty understanding speech, especially in noisy environments. For example, they might struggle to follow conversations at a busy restaurant.
- They may have difficulty discerning words that sound alike, like mistaking 'pen' for 'hen' or 'rock' for 'flock.'
- They may face challenges with reading, spelling, and writing compared to their peers.
- The student may find it difficult to follow multi-step verbal directions without visual aids. For instance, they may struggle to understand instructions without a written list or pictures.
- They can be easily distracted by sudden or loud noises, such as being unable to concentrate when a door slams unexpectedly.
- During conversations, they may experience delayed responses due to needing time to process information. For instance, they may take a long pause before replying.
- They may have difficulty remembering or summarizing information presented verbally, such as struggling to recall details from a spoken lecture.
- Individuals with APD may misunderstand jokes, idioms, or figurative language, not grasping the humor in sarcasm or wordplay.
- They may frequently ask people to repeat themselves in conversation.
- The child may appear to listen but not fully comprehend.

According to the medical journal, [Ear and Hearing](#), APD affects 0.5% to 7% of the population. Additionally, the signs of APD often overlap with other conditions and disorders, such as the [autistic spectrum disorder](#), [attention hyperactivity disorder](#), and [other learning disabilities](#).

A comprehensive evaluation is necessary for an accurate diagnosis of APD. And while there is no “cure” for APD, with appropriate academic accommodations and support, the individual's

processing skills can improve over time. If you suspect your child has APD and it's significantly affecting their life, early intervention is vital. Additionally, students with APD may be eligible for academic accommodations through an IEP or 504 plan.

For assistance or questions about this process, contact [hello@loveyourschool.org](mailto:hello@loveyourschool.org). Additionally, if you have further inquiries, reach out to us. We can provide information on evaluations to see if your child has APD, school options, and programs like the [Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Account](#) program, which offers additional funds for students with APD to support their education.

**More Resources:**

[Help for Kids with Auditory Processing Disorder - Child Mind Institute](#)

[Quick Guide to Auditory Processing Disorder - Child Mind Institute](#)

[Auditory Processing Disorder Factsheet \(for Schools\)](#)

[Central Auditory Processing Disorder - ASHA](#)

[7 things I wish people knew about parenting a child with auditory processing disorder - Understood.Org](#)

[Classroom accommodations for auditory processing disorder - Understood.Org](#)