

How I Learn

Tailored educational assessments for all ages

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Helping Children with Auditory Processing problems

Auditory processing is the ability to process and register information from the environment, particularly when it is presented verbally. This is a specific difficulty, and may occur even though the child has good intellectual abilities and good hearing. These children can become distracted and appear to be disobedient because they have missed or misunderstood what has been said. They can also appear to be disorganized, as they have difficulty holding instructions in their mind and carrying them out. These delays usually improve slowly and gradually, though not to age expectations.

Environment and seating

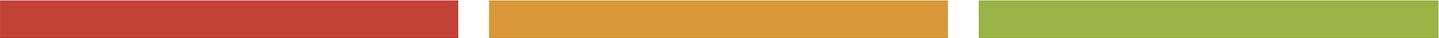
- Sit the child near the teacher, facing them.
- Have a quiet environment with minimal background noise and distractions.
- Stand near to the child so that if they have trouble discriminating speech in a noisy environment they have a better chance of processing what has been said.
- The child will benefit from structure, routine, revision and repetition.

To gain attention

- Use eye contact when giving instructions.
- Use a loud, clear voice, at a slow rate.

Giving directions

- Keep sentences short and grammatically simple – try to give one sentence at a time and repeat it if necessary.
- Pause between sentences.

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- Break up a long series of instructions into chunks, eg “get your school bag”, “now take out your reader”, “open it to the first page” – only moving to the next “chunk” when the previous one has been completed. A child may appear to be deliberately disobedient when in actual fact they have got “lost” in a set of instructions.
 - Have the child repeat an instruction back to you to ensure they have processed and understood it.
 - Allow adequate response time.
 - Encourage the child to seek clarification of instructions.

Communication cues

- Use gesture.
- Emphasise important words with intonation.
- Use facial expressions.

Aids

- Provide a written outline
- Use cue cards
- Use reminder stickers.
- Using the computer will compensate for auditory problems to some extent.
- Reading and taping lessons can help children capacity to understand exceeds their ability to process them immediately.
- Encourage the student to write down instructions or homework – check they are correct before the child leaves for the day. As children get older, having notes and texts alongside the work will be beneficial.

Buddy system

- Where appropriate, buddy the child up with another student.
 - Allow them to copy notes and homework instructions.
 - Encourage them to work on tasks together during class.
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