

People with Autism Spectrum Disorder often experience auditory processing difficulties

Common auditory processing difficulties

- Difficulty hearing speech against background noise
- Difficulty listening with several people talking at the same time
- Being overwhelmed by noisy or complex auditory environments e.g. classrooms, shopping malls
- Difficulty following, processing, and remembering spoken instructions unless brief and simple
- Problems with speech, language, phonics, spelling, reading, or written language

Auditory processing difficulties can lead to increased anxiety in noisy environments, difficulty understanding subtle nuances of speech such as emotion or humour, difficulty engaging socially in a large group, having undue sensitivity to loud sounds or noise, and having poor listening skills.

Auditory processing difficulties can be effectively treated

Research shows that treatments for auditory processing disorder (APD) are also effective in reducing similar difficulties in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Research in New Zealand, Australia, and the USA has shown benefits from both auditory training and the use of specialised assistive listening devices, also known as remote microphone hearing aids (RMHAs).

Benefits shown for children with ASD are:

- RMHAs improve listening in noise, ease communication, and reduce stress levels in noisy classroom environments
- RMHAs can be used along with auditory training to improve listening skills
- RMHAs can be used along with social perception training to improve social skills
- Using RMHAs may lead to changes in brain activity that indicate improved sensitivity to tones of voice

SoundSkills specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of APD to help enable better learning.

The multi-disciplinary team of professionals at SoundSkills is experienced in assessing auditory processing skills in people with ASD and providing appropriate treatment.

For more information, a brochure, or to attend a **FREE SEMINAR about APD** please contact SoundSkills at:

✉ clinic@soundskills.co.nz ☎ Call 09 930 8573

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teaching the brain to hear