

SUPPORTING OUR AUTISTIC SCHOLARS



AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT ©2024
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Definition

Commonly seen in Autistic persons, auditory processing disorder is not hearing loss. It is a brain difference in making sense of auditory information. It's about knowing what to do with what you hear. This may be mislabeled as ignoring, "selective hearing", or inattention.



Impact on learning

If you can't make sense of what sounds mean in your classroom, you can't access the same education as your peers. Research shows that delays in auditory processing impact language mastery.

Wait Time

Give your scholar more time to answer you the first time you speak. Immediately repeating yourself can "reset the clock" and cause even more delay in responding. Start with counting to ten in your head while you give your scholar more time to process their response.



Visuals

Often those with auditory processing delays can process visual information at typical speeds. Present information visually when possible. Reach out to your SpEd team for help making visuals for your scholars..

Simplify

Notice how much information you are sharing at once. Try shortening your instructions into smaller sentences. Keep information short and sweet!



How can we accommodate for differences in auditory processing in our schools?

References

<https://www.gemmllearning.com/can-help/autism/auditory-processing-disorder-autism/>
<https://www.asha.org/practice-portal/clinical-topics/central-auditory-processing-disorder/>