Auditory Processing Disorders (APD)

Signs and symptoms of APD can range from mild to severe and can take many different forms. If you think your child may have a problem processing sounds, consider these questions.

1. Is your child easily distracted or unusually bothered by loud or sudden noises?
2. Are noisy environments upsetting to your child?
3. Does your child's behavior and performance improve in quieter settings?
4. Does your child have difficulty following directions, whether simple or complicated?
5. Does your child have reading, spelling, writing, or other speech-language difficulties?
6. Is abstract information difficult for your child to comprehend?
7. Are verbal (word) math problems difficult for your child?
8. Is your child disorganized and forgetful?
9. Are conversations hard for your child to follow?
10. Does your child’s teacher tell you that your child does not follow directions or often gets frustrated or overwhelmed throughout the day?

Five main problem areas that can affect your child at home and in the classroom:

1. **Auditory Figure-Ground**: when a child can't pay attention if there's noise in the background. Noisy, low-structured classrooms can be very frustrating and distracting.

2. **Auditory Memory**: when a child has difficulty remembering information such as directions, lists or study materials. This can be immediate and/or delayed.

3. **Auditory Discrimination**: when a child has difficulty hearing the difference between words or sounds that are similar (COAT/BOAT or CH/SH). This can affect following directions, reading, spelling and writing skills.

4. **Auditory Attention**: when a child can't stay focused on listening long enough to complete a task or requirement (such as listening to a lecture in school).

5. **Auditory Cohesion**: when higher-level listening tasks are difficult. Auditory cohesion skills — drawing inferences from conversations, understanding riddles or comprehending verbal math problems. These tasks require heightened auditory processing and language levels and develop best when all the other skills (levels 1 through 4 above) are intact.

If you answered yes to any of the questions, your child may benefit from seeing an Audiologist and/or a Speech-Language Pathologist to determine if APD is present. Visit www.FHSportsMed.com or call (407) 303-1575 for more information and testing options.