



JANUARY, 2018

WELCOME TO THE SPEECH BUZZ CLUB NEWSLETTER!

Volume 1, Issue 2

Special points of interest:

- What is an Auditory Processing Disorder?
- How does it impact my child?
- What causes it?
- Who Diagnoses it?
- Then What?
- Parental Advice

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- Speech Website
- Quote of the Month
- Speech Humor

AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER...WHAT IS THAT?

Great question! It is also referred to as a Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD). While this isn't a term heard as often as ADHD, it's being heard more and more lately. So what exactly is it? Basically, it's a glitch in the brain that filters and processes words. **Your child's hearing can be perfectly normal but it's how the brain perceives sounds.** What happens is that the brain processes the sounds it hears, turns them into words, and then into meaningful sentences and ideas. Most people can do this without any effort at all, but when the brain has difficulty converting these messages into meaning, we call this a Central Auditory Processing Disorder.

How Does It Impact My Child?

Here are some things that your child might be experiencing:

- Trouble distinguishing between sounds (might be mishearing words)
- Trouble hearing in background noise
- Forgetting part of a conversation
- Trouble picking up on subtleties of words and social cues
- Sensitivity to loud noises,
- Misinterpreting what is said as well as the tone of voice

- Has trouble paying attention to and remembering information presented orally
- Has problems carrying out multi-step directions
- Has poor listening skills
- Needs more time to process information
- May have behavior problems
- Difficulty with reading, comprehension, spelling, and vocabulary

What Causes CAPD?

The underlying cause is not really known. As you can imagine, experts are constantly disagreeing on if it is inherited or environmental, or both. Even though our auditory system is fully developed by the time we are born, it isn't fully mature until we are between 10-12 years of age.

There are several things that can interfere with the development such as ear infections, low birth weight, Lyme disease or head trauma to name a few. There is good news though! Because our auditory system continues to mature, it responds to early intervention. Many experts state that there can be an overlay of CAPD and ADHD. Research is ongoing but that is a huge topic which will be left for another Newsletter!

Who Diagnoses CAPD?

CAPD is diagnosed by a licensed and ASHA certified Audiologist. The Audiologist tests the child's hearing as well as how they respond to words and sentences

presented with background noise, faster speeds, and if their ability to listen becomes more difficult. There are many different types of CAPD that the Audiologist would go over based on the test results. This would determine the course of therapy that would be needed. Children are not usually tested until they are 8 years old but there is some controversy over whether a child should be tested sooner than that. That controversy I suspect may continue for some time.

Ok, Now What?

The Audiologist will make specific recommendations and the child will begin some therapy. A Speech Pathologist is trained to teach strategies to help your child and a combination of therapies inside school and outside of school may be recommended. Your child will be referred for a later check-up to see if there have been any improvements in the auditory system.

Parental Advice

Home practice is important. Try and be consistent with anything a therapist suggests. **Also, some simple tips:**

- Try to have a conversational with your child when they are in the same room and not while they're watching TV or in another room
- Make sure your child is ready to listen to a conversation
- Speak slowly and use simple, short sentences
- Encourage your child to ask you to repeat something he/she doesn't understand



SPEECH BUZZ CLUB

By Elaine Mach, M.S., CCC-SLP

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- Just a reminder to check out my website for some great homework practice
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SPEECH WEBSITE!

Please check out my website to find fun games and information for parts of speech, idioms, analogies, inferences, reading comprehension and much more!

Speechbuzzclub.weebly.com

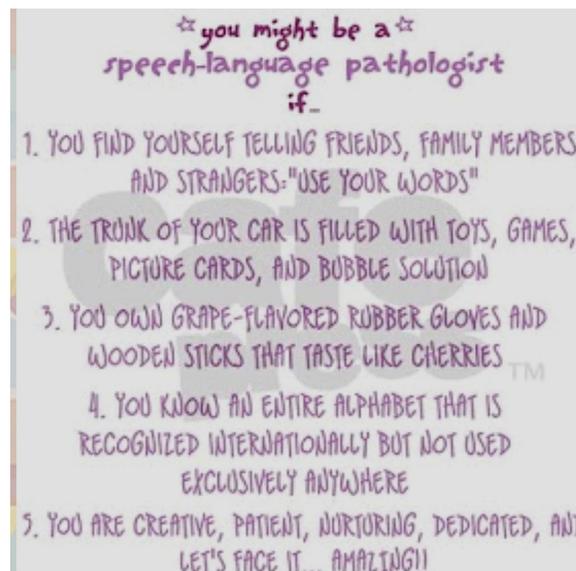
I'm constantly updating it and adding more games and fun activities!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"SLPs change people's lives by improving their most human characteristic...communication!"

-Ellen Engel, M.A., CCC-SLP

Proud to be a Speech Pathologist!



Please check back next month for another topic and more information!