

What can help my child hear or understand better?

Encourage your child to do the following to focus on the person speaking:

- Watch the person speaking.
- Sit or stand close to the person speaking.
- Reduce background noise.
- Turn on close captions when watching TV or personal electronic device.

Ask the person speaking to do these things:

- Speak slowly and clearly.
- Repeat what they said, if needed.
- Give your child extra time.



Image by vwalakte on freepik

For more information

See Speech-Language & Audiology Canada



Scan this QR code, or visit tinyurl.com/sacapd.

See American Speech-Language-Hearing Association



Scan this QR code, or visit asha.org.
Search *auditory processing disorder*.

www.fraserhealth.ca

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your health care provider.

Catalogue #268017 (May 2023)

To order, visit patienteduc.fraserhealth.ca

Auditory Processing Disorder

Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre
Surrey Memorial Hospital



Photo by Ron Lach from Pexels

 **fraserhealth**

What is auditory processing?

It is “what we do with what we hear”. This means auditory processing is all the ways our brain “digests” or understands the sounds we hear.

What is Auditory Processing Disorder?

Often, people with this condition can hear but their brain does not understand the sounds.

People with this condition find these activities hard to do:

- hear (hearing is even harder when there is background noise)
- follow instructions
- learn new things
- focus their attention

Research tells us this condition:

- affects 2 to 3% of children
- can sometimes get better as your child get older
- is more likely to get better if your child is diagnosed at a younger age
- has no known cure, but there are ways to help your child succeed in school and life

When do we check for this condition?

Your child has to be at least 8 years old to be tested. They need to be able to follow the instructions of the tests and answer the questions.

How do we check for this condition?

First, we check your child’s hearing.

Then we do more in-depth hearing tests. Your child listens to words or sentences and is asked to repeat what they hear. This testing usually takes two appointments.



Image by [mdjaft](#) on [freepik](#)

Who checks for this condition?

Our audiologists (say *awe-dee-awe-low-gists*) check for this condition. We are healthcare providers trained to do the tests needed and interpret the results.

How do I get my child checked?

Your child’s ear, nose, and throat doctor, or a doctor who specializes in children (pediatrician), refers your child to an audiologist at one of our Audiology Clinics.

Who can help my child manage this condition?

Your child’s family doctor or nurse practitioner, and a team of healthcare professionals, can help your child. The team can include:

- audiologists
- educators
- psychologists
- speech-language pathologists

What causes this condition?

The cause is often unknown. Some possible causes are:

- chronic ear problems, such as ear infections
- uncommon development or changes of the hearing system in the brain
- uncommon brain structure