

Definitions

Central Auditory Processing refers to the ability to process auditory signals appropriately.

There are several different areas in which the processing can break down:

Binaural Integration refers to the ability of the listener to process different information presented simultaneously to both ears.

Binaural Separation refers to the ability to understand and focus on one auditory signal, the primary speaker, in the presence of background noise.

Temporal Sequencing is the ability to recognize appropriate acoustic contours. This leads to recognizing and using the prosodic features of speech. A student with a temporal processing problem may have difficulty extracting the key words from a spoken message or may be unable to discriminate subtle difference in the meaning of words based on stress.

Auditory Memory involves the ability to retain and recall material presented through the auditory channel.

General Memory refers to global, gross forms of retaining information.

Sequential Memory is involved in remembering things presented in a specific order.

Sound Blending-Auditory Synthesis or **Auditory Closure** involves the ability to combine smoothly the sounds or syllables of words to make them a whole, or the ability to analyze a word into its separate sounds. This skill, as well as auditory sequencing, is closely related to the reading and spelling process.

Auditory-Verbal Association involves the ability to draw relationships from what is heard, and then to respond verbally in a meaningful way to these spoken words.

Auditory-Verbal Automaticity is the ability to predict future linguistic events from past experience.

Auditory Attention is the ability to focus attention on one sound over another sound.

Auditory Attention Span is the ability to sustain focus of attention on one sound over a period of time.

Auditory-Visual Integration is the ability to integrate two sources of information presented at the same time.

Auditory Closure is the ability to “fill in” information that is missed in a listening event based on prior knowledge of the situation or English language structures.

Auditory Comprehension is the ability to understand a message through listening.

Auditory Discrimination is the ability to distinguish similarities and differences of sounds.

Auditory Figure-Ground relegates certain sounds into background while selecting others as the focus of attention. An auditory figure-ground problem consists of difficulty perceiving relevant auditory stimuli in the presence of background stimuli or when there is a significant change in intensity of the stimuli.

Auditory Identification is the ability to add a linguistic label to a sound source.

Auditory Localization is the ability to identify the source of a sound.

Auditory Perception is the ability to receive and understand sounds and words. Auditory perception has a key role in the development of efficient reading skills, processing incoming verbal information, conceptual development, basic communication, social relationships, and in the ability to respond in an appropriate and safe manner to the environment.

Long Term Memory is the storage of a concept over a period of time, usually 24 hours after hearing the information.

Motivation is the ability to want to actively listen.

Recognition is the ability to detect a sound source.

Sensitivity is the ability to resist various degrees of interfering sounds (noise).

Auditory Sequential Memory is the ability to place the sounds in a temporal sequence.

Short Term Memory is the ability to retain information over a brief period of time, usually less than 24 hours.

Alzheimers Disease - a progressive and irreversible mental deterioration. It often begins with intermittent states of mental confusion, disorientation, and loss of recent memory. Subsequently, it progresses to severe impairment in all realms of thinking, memory, language, and communication

Aphasia is an impairment in the comprehension and production of language systems that results from fairly localized damage to the brain, especially in right-handed persons. It usually occurs because of focal areas of damage to the left cerebral hemisphere. Affected abilities are reading, writing, speaking, understanding, gesturing, and other symbol systems used in communication

Expressive Aphasia is a common description for people with aphasia who struggle to talk, yet understand most of what is said to them; it is also called Broca's aphasia

Receptive Aphasia is a sensory aphasia or an inability to comprehend what is spoken. Some expressive abilities are retained, yet without understanding.

Apraxia is the inability to voluntarily execute a learned sequence of motor actions. Some functions may remain intact on an involuntary basis

Articulation Disorder is a disorder of speech sound production; or a developmental disorder in which speech sounds are produced incorrectly or inadequately compared to normative standards; sometimes it may be called a phonological disorder

Ataxia is a deficit in motor coordination; also total or partial inability to coordinate voluntary body movements, especially skilled muscular movements; often tied to injury to the cerebellum or posterior spinal cord columns; it can involve the trunk, head, or limbs

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) is aided or unaided communication modes used as a supplement to or as an alternative to oral language, including gestures, sign language, picture symbols, the alphabet, and computers with synthetic speech

Autism is a developmental disorder affecting communication and social skills; characteristics may include delayed language, insistence on preservation of sameness and stereotypes, and viewing other people as objects and not people.

Cerebral Palsy is the result of a prenatal brain injury, which is outwardly manifested by speech problems and physical dyscoordination.

Cleft a fissure - a division: especially a fissure that begins in an embryo, as the branchial cleft; clefts defined as craniofacial abnormalities can lead to serious problems in feeding and speech, which can be treated through surgery followed by therapeutic intervention

Down Syndrome is a syndrome of mental retardation and a number of abnormalities that vary greatly among those affected; caused by a triplication or translocation of chromosome 21; speech and language development can be delayed secondary to cognitive impairment, with possible compensatory articulation secondary to cleft palate and VPI

Dysarthria is a neurogenic speech disorder that results in weakness, slowness, or incoordination of the muscle of respiration, phonation, articulation, and resonance

Dyslexia is difficulty in learning to read despite adequate intelligence and sociocultural opportunity; it may include other language processing problems

Laryngectomy is removal of the larynx, either partial or total.

Otolaryngologist is a physician who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the ear, nose and throat

Phonological Disorder is the development of a phonological system that is inaccurate or incomplete or that follows an atypical pattern. The resulting speech pattern is mostly unintelligible to listeners other than immediate family or care givers.

Pathology is the study of diseases.

Stuttering is an articulatory or phonatory problem that typically presents in childhood and is characterized by forced, involuntary hesitations, duplications, and protractions of sounds and syllables. As the problem continues through childhood, anxiety, fear, apprehension, and guilt often become associated with the problems.