

Audiology Department

Referral Guidelines for Auditory Processing Testing (APD)



The following considerations should be taken into account prior to referral for an APD assessment:

Inclusion Criteria

1. Aged 7 years and over (APD assessments are not performed on adults)
2. Normal peripheral hearing
3. Significant concerns regarding listening skills
4. Performing below curriculum standards at school
5. Fluent in English with intelligible speech
6. Able to follow directions and have sufficient attention/co-operation to complete APD testing
7. Normal IQ

It is also preferable if the child has:

8. had a recent educational psychologist assessment or similar to determine if learning disability, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), emotional problems, or other cognitive difficulties are present
 9. had a recent speech and language assessment that specifically looked at listening skills
- We recommend that children under the age of 7 be referred for an assessment with a speech language therapist.
 - Should a child not meet the above inclusion criteria there are private clinics that can provide this service. Contact information for these private clinics is available on request.
 - At the first appointment a full diagnostic hearing assessment (which does not include an APD assessment) will be completed.
 - A second appointment may be made to complete an APD focused case history and an iPad based screening assessment. The caregivers will also be given teacher questionnaires which need to be returned within four weeks. The history, assessment, and questionnaires will then be examined to determine whether it is appropriate to proceed with APD testing.

Although an APD assessment can rule out APD, it may not confirm a diagnosis of APD in children with:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- ADHD/ADD
- Intellectual disability
- Severe language impairments
- Peripheral hearing loss