



Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) referral criteria



Lancashire Teaching
Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

APD Referral Criteria

What is Auditory Processing Disorder?

APD is an umbrella term to describe someone who has difficulties in listening despite normal hearing. This can be with or without oversensitivity to sounds. People with APD usually struggle to hear against background noise.

APD is mostly present along with symptoms of other neuro-developmental conditions such as: anxiety; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); autism spectrum disorder (ASD); dyslexia; language impairment; sensory oversensitivity; poor motor coordination; sleep disturbance and visual processing difficulties.

Diagnosis of APD can depend on the presence of one or more of the above neurodevelopmental conditions and we screen for some of the conditions as a part of the APD diagnostic process. Please note that APD does not cause the above conditions and a diagnosis of APD may not explain different behavioural, developmental, and learning issues of your child.

Referral Criteria for APD

1. Concerns about poor listening against background noise, difficulties in following multiple instructions, or poor verbal understanding, with or without oversensitivity to sounds.
NB: Please indicate in your referral letter if there is decreased sound tolerance issues.
2. Six and half years of age and older.
3. Clearly speaking and able to understand and follow verbal instructions.
4. Able to concentrate on a task for 10-15 minutes at a time.
5. Normal hearing.
6. In mainstream school.
7. Non-verbal intelligence quotient (NVIQ) of 81 or more. APD assessment is only meaningful if there is no significant intellectual impairment. If NVIQ is less than 81, the listening difficulties could be related to developmental delay or other learning disabilities and a diagnosis of APD cannot be given.
8. APD can co-exist with visual processing difficulties, and it is advisable that the referrer also refer children to the orthoptics department at Royal Preston Hospital for a visual processing/visual stress assessment at the same time as referral for APD.
9. Please attach report of CAMHS, Education Psychology, Speech language if any have been carried out.