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***Q: My child has normal hearing yet still has difficulty listening in the classroom. I have heard the term 'Central Auditory Processing Disorder/CAPD.' What is it and what are some of the signs and symptoms?***

**A:** Central Auditory Processing Disorder, now more commonly referred to as 'Auditory Processing Disorder' or APD is the process in which the ears detect sound and the sound travels through the auditory pathway through the structures of the ear, however, the difficulty lies in what the brain does with the sound and words that were spoken so that they are comprehended. It is the actual 'processing' of information that allows a child to understand the meaning of words and to determine the direction of sound, the type of sound, and to separate sound from background noise in order to interpret it.

Symptoms of APD can range from mild to severe and can take many different forms. If you think there may be a problem with how your child processes what he or she hears, ask yourself these questions:

- Is your child easily distracted or unusually bothered by loud or sudden noises?
- Are noisy environments upsetting to your child?
- Does your child's behavior and performance improve in quieter settings?
- Does your child have difficulty following directions, whether simple or complicated ones?
- Does your child have reading, spelling, writing, or other speech-language difficulties?
- Is abstract information difficult for your child to comprehend?
- Are verbal (word) math problems difficult for your child?
- Is your child disorganized and forgetful?
- Are conversations hard for your child to follow?

These, as well as other behaviours, may be signs of an auditory processing disorder (APD) and are confirmed through formal testing by an Audiologist.

**If you have further questions or concerns regarding APD call the HearSay Speech & Hearing Centre to speak to one of the Audiologists (905)875-3345.**