

# Central Auditory Processing Difficulties

## *What are Central Auditory Processing (C.A.P) Difficulties ?*

This term refers to a breakdown in the auditory system at a point somewhere along the nerve pathways that take auditory information from the inner ear to the brain.

Sounds enter our ear through the ear canal (outer ear). These sounds are amplified in the middle ear and then in the inner ear are changed into electrical impulses which are sent along the nerve pathways up to the brain. By the time the nerve impulses reach the brain, we have been able to attach **meaning** onto the sounds we have heard.

Central Auditory Processing allows us to make sense of spoken instructions. It allows us to “screen” the important auditory information (e.g., teacher giving instructions in the classroom) from the irrelevant information (e.g., traffic noise).

### **Things to look for:**

Does your child, have difficulty:-

- understanding parts of conversation or instructions particularly in the presence of background noise.
- learning to read and spell

Central Auditory Processing also allows us to understand how spoken words can be broken up into individual sounds and the order in which sounds are organised. These skills are necessary for developing reading and spelling. Children with poor auditory processing skills often find learning to read and spell very difficult.

Central Auditory Processing also allows us to have an intact auditory short-term memory. That is, the ability to keep spoken words in our memory long enough to analyse them, compare them and manipulate them.

Children who have Central Auditory Processing difficulties find it difficult to understand long and complex sentences, particularly when there is some background noise present. This is seen very clearly in the classroom. They can be expected to miss or misunderstand parts of conversation or instructions.

**Remember** - children who have C.A.P. difficulties will often have normal hearing. That is, they can hear sounds, words etc. What they have difficulty with, is making sense of these sounds, words and sentences.

An Audiologist is the professional who tests for Central Auditory Processing difficulties. Speech Pathologists usually see children with Central Auditory Processing difficulties due to the significant negative effects this disorder can have on a child’s listening, comprehension and reading and spelling.

If your child is diagnosed with Central Auditory Processing difficulties, then these suggestions should help your child in the classroom:

- sitting the child towards the front
- reducing or eliminating background noise and avoiding open plan classrooms,
- providing extra visual cues (e.g., drawing a plan on the board or writing the information down)
- checking to see whether the child has understood your instruction

### **What to do:**

- **Contact us at Tyquin group Speech Pathology to discuss Auditory Processing Difficulties and / or associated language difficulties.**

## About Tyquin group

Tyquin group is a professional clinic containing a practice of Speech Pathology and a Reading Clinic .

As speech pathologists, we are working toward helping the 14% of Australians that have a communication disability. In order to do this we actively promote not only our practice but the profession as a whole.

Language and Communication sciences over recent years have made enormous advances. Unfortunately there is little awareness of the large and diverse role that Speech Pathologists can play in the support and education of our young learning children.

In our Reading Clinic, we aim to help poor readers when other attempts have failed. We willingly explore the best technology on offer anywhere in the world. We also develop techniques to use in concert with this technology in order to achieve the most effective results.

Philosophically we strive to achieve results quickly. Though this is sometimes ambitious and not always possible, we believe that it is a worthy goal.

Tyquin group invites you to regard us as a point of contact for further information about any queries you may have.

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**Tyquin group**  
Speech Pathology  
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