THOMPSON READING CLINIC

Auditory Processing + Dyslexia

The majority of people with dyslexia show problems with short-term verbal memory and experience significant difficulty with auditory processing.

An easier way to understand auditory processing difficulties (APD), is to think of it as "hearing dyslexia".

Auditory processing weakness will cause general problems with listening. Students will ask for instruction to be repeated and cannot seem to remember even a short list of spoken instructions.

Verbal sequential memory is the ability to remember auditory information in sequences. Students with this weakness will struggle to remember spoken information. They may have a poor recall of times tables, months of the year and the alphabet sequence.

Other problems linked to poor auditory memory can be difficulty in spelling because they can't remember the sequence of the letter sounds. Sounding out a sequence of phonemes and blending them will be difficult.

Concentration is a major problem as students with weak auditory processing have difficulty staying focused on auditory information being given. They struggle to concentrate or follow in a classroom that is primarily verbally driven (teacher primarily talks or lectures to provide information). Shifting attention is a struggle on tasks that demand listening and then organizing vs. reading and copying.

People with auditory processing weakness are likely to have problems picking out important sounds from background noise. This can cause difficulty hearing the teacher in noisy situations.
Other areas that are difficult include note taking when information is presented orally and at a rapid pace.

Phonological processing is affected in the difficulty distinguishing different sounds in words, /e/ vs /i/ and in words "seventy" vs. "seventeen". Mixing up syllables and confusing the order of the sounds in multi-syllable words like "sundenly" is another area that can be impacted.

Tests – TAPS – Test of Auditory Processing – **CTOPP** – Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing – **DMT** - The Digit Memory Test – **WRAML** – Memory Assessment

Information compiled from:

Nessy.com
Understood.com
International Dyslexia Association - IDA