



Auditory Processing Basics

"Auditory processing" refers to how the brain takes in and uses language. This includes "listening," of course, but also involves other types of receiving and organizing knowledge in our brain. As you might expect, auditory processing is a complicated process that can result in difficulty in many areas including reading, writing, following directions, learning new vocabulary, and it can even result in attention problems. Auditory processing disorders are often associated with other disorders such as dyslexia, specific language impairment, autism, attention deficit disorder, and learning disabilities. However, auditory processing problems are sometimes the primary or even only source of the difficulty.

Unfortunately, many children and adults do not know when they are having auditory processing difficulties. All they know is that some tasks are very hard to complete, and that learning seems harder for them than it does for others. Sometimes parents or teachers think that a child "just has behavioral problems and is easily distracted" while not realizing that there is an underlying processing disorder.

Although "auditory processing disorder" sounds very serious, there are treatment options that work very well. In addition to traditional speech-language pathology treatment, technology has made available advanced programs that are designed to maximize benefit. For example, the **Fast ForWord**TM family of products are tools that combine the latest brain research and technology to improve language, listening and learning skills for people of all ages.

EarobicsTM is a computer based program that trains listening skills through a series of exercises and benefits reading skills. **Hearbuilder**TM offers several computer based programs to improve receptive language and listening skills.

Contact our office for more information about programs designed to improve listening, learning and reading!