

AUDITORY DIFFERENCES

CHECKLIST 1

MILD - MODERATE AUDITORY DIFFERENCES

These are often most noticeable when the child is young

- History of hearing loss/ear infections/developmental delay
- Has difficulty following conversations or verbal directions
- Mishears some letters/words and sometimes misunderstands what is said
- Relies on lip-reading, gesture, context - or just plain guessing - to understand what is being said
- Often asks people to repeat things
- Has dyslexia or tinnitus
- Has APD/CAPD - see separate list below
- Has hyperacusis - finds some specific sounds painful. May leave the room or even the house when something noisy like the vacuum cleaner is on
- Often irritable - or loses temper - for no apparent reason
- Light sleeper - wakes easily
- Dislikes or avoids:
 - noisy situations/background noise
 - social contact or interaction
 - concerts
- Enjoys or seeks quiet spaces/places
- Has difficulty taking notes during speech or lecture
- Enjoys constant activity
- Often startled by sudden sound or movement
- Frequently notices sounds before others do
- Sings out of tune - or has difficulty singing with others – e.g. may always be a bar behind

CHECKLIST 2

SEVERE AUDITORY DIFFERENCES

Often associated with ASD these too tend to be particularly noticeable in young children or when they first begin to occur.

- May initially be considered deaf
- Seems to ignore sounds/speech but may hear and recognize the rustle of sweet- papers etc.
- Speech difficulties -
 - speech does not develop (but is not deaf) or development is slow
 - has echolalia
 - speaks clearly but only occasionally; consistently mispronounces some words
 - speaks in a monotone; too loudly; too softly
 - develops speech only for it to deteriorate/disappear either gradually or suddenly
- If given two instructions is only able to carry out one task or does neither
- Dislikes some noises and demonstrates this by:
 - putting hands over/in ears
 - moving (or running) away
 - getting upset or distressed
 - going into 'a world of his/her own'
- A very light sleeper - wakes easily
- Frightened of some animals – e.g. dogs or cats
- Seems to hear noises which other people might not be aware of - e.g. the hum of fluorescent lights, people breathing etc.
- Can often correctly identify distant noises (before others hear them) or can overhear distant conversations e.g. both sides of a telephone conversation
- Dislike bathing, haircut's, shaving, teeth cleaning etc. Because of the noise of the
 - water, scissors, razor etc.
- Dislikes the sound of a toilet flushing
- May finds mealtimes difficult - as dislikes the sound of people eating
- Dislikes/gets upset in shops, crowded situations, shopping, rainstorms, wind, seaside etc.
- Learns/concentrates better in quiet surroundings
- Enjoys loud rhythmic noises i.e. Washing machines, vacuum cleaners
- Enjoys being in control of noisy objects - e.g. likes playing with running water, flushing the toilet etc.
- Talks constantly/loudly
- Likes/does things that make a noise; squeaking toys, tearing paper, banging doors etc. as being in control of the noise makes it predictable - and it also helps them block out other more unpredictable noises
- Likes listening to music - for the same reasons as above