Auditory processing disorder (APD), also known as central auditory processing disorder (CAPD), is a hearing problem that affects about 5% of school-aged children. Kids with this condition can’t process what they hear in the same way other kids do because their ears and brain don’t fully coordinate. Something interferes with the way the brain recognizes and interprets sounds, especially speech. With the right therapy, kids with APD can be successful in school and life. If you think your child might have a problem processing sounds, 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 exhibit signs of an auditory processing disorder? Find out why APD causes struggles in reading and spelling, and what you can do to help. That’s what can happen in a child with auditory processing disorder (APD), or central auditory processing disorder (CAPD), as it is also called.

What Is Auditory Processing Disorder? In a child with APD, the brain doesn’t recognize and interpret sounds correctly—especially the sounds that make up speech. Your child may appear to have an auditory deficit, but in most cases, hearing is not the problem. It’s like there’s a disconnect somewhere between the ears and the brain. He can hear what you say; he just can’t always process it.