



PAEDIATRIC CENTRAL AUDITORY PROCESSING ASSESSMENTS AND CAP THERAPY

Background information about hearing, listening and central auditory processing (CAP)

It is likely that you are bringing your child to the UQ Audiology Clinic due to concerns about his or her listening abilities, especially in the classroom. This may manifest itself in a number of ways:

- General poor academic skills
- Difficulties with literacy based tasks: reading, writing, spelling etc
- Difficulty following complex instructions
- Poor attention or concentration in class
- Difficulty hearing and processing spoken information in noisy situations
- Difficulty remembering spoken information.

It is important to understand that listening is a very complex task, and the ability to listen draws on many different skills. Central Auditory Processing (best assessed by an Audiologist) can be thought of as the brain's ability to identify what the sound was, where it came from, and when it occurred. It forms one part of our larger ability to listen and understand; the other parts being language (best assessed by a Speech-Language Pathologist) and attention, memory, and cognition (best assessed by a Psychologist). All parts of listening and understanding must be considered when diagnosing and managing auditory processing disorder.

What can I expect on the day of my child's assessment?

The CAP assessment involves the following:

- Case history information: You will be interviewed about your child's difficulties and any concerns you or the teacher/ Speech Pathologist etc may have
- Hearing sensitivity: A basic hearing test of tones and speech will be conducted on your child to determine his or her hearing sensitivity
- Short term auditory memory ability: A screening test will be performed on your child to determine his or her short-term memory abilities
- Central auditory processing ability: A series of CAP tests will be conducted on your child to determine his or her CAP abilities

Please expect to attend the Audiology Clinic for a full morning session, as the test battery is extensive and your child will be given a short break midway through the testing. As the assessment time will be taken up testing your child, immediate results will not be available. On completion of these assessments and analysis of the results, a detailed report outlining your child's results, impressions and recommendations will be sent to you via email within approximately 7 days of your appointment.

The Audiologists at The University of Queensland Audiology Clinic are offering an innovative therapy program for children with central auditory processing disorder or specific listening difficulties. This program is designed to target each child's specific auditory processing difficulties as determined by his/her central auditory processing test results from UQ assessments only. Currently the program is largely home-based utilising computer or ipad applications. You will be informed in the CAP report if this is a possible option for your child.