



ASSOCIATED SPEECH & LANGUAGE SPECIALISTS, LLC

IMPROVING communication. Transforming LIVES.

“Processing” – What is it?

You’ve likely heard references to “processing” in many different situations. “I’m still processing what happened to me,” suggests someone is working to make sense of an event or situation that they found challenging. When it comes to difficulty processing spoken language, the end result is that it can bring about a similar state of confusion: a person is aware of what is happening, but struggles to accurately take it in, interpret it, and apply it in a meaningful way.

Have you ever been in the presence of others speaking a foreign language where you only know a few words and you’re trying to follow the conversation? It can be frustrating, exhausting, and not very satisfying. This is what it can feel like daily for a child who is struggling to “process”. Often these children can hear well, but their brain cannot interpret what their ears are hearing, they are taking a long time to “translate” what is being said, or they can’t organize the incoming information, or respond in a way that makes sense.

What Causes Processing Problems?

Exactly why certain kids can have issues with processing, while others don’t, is still a mystery. We do know that these challenges occur due to differences in the brain.

CAPD, or Central Auditory Processing Disorder, involves the central nervous system – it’s a problem with the part of the brain that’s in charge of “what we do with what we hear,” affecting *incoming* messages. Kids with this disorder often act as if they have a hearing loss. They can be highly distractible, have poor reading and spelling skills, are challenged by long/complex directions, have poor memory skills and can often be heard saying, “Huh?” and “What?”, even when spoken to clearly.

Language Processing Disorders occur in specific regions of the brain, and are evident in problems with *outgoing* messages. Kids with this challenge typically have trouble thinking of the exact right word to use (those table things/plates), misuse words when they are speaking (crunches/crutches), have

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inconsistent learning patterns, and often respond to questions by saying, “I don’t know”, “I forgot” or “You tell me.”

We also know that a processing problem can occur by itself, or it can be associated with other issues such as ADHD, Autism, and a variety of other learning disorders. CAPD and Language Processing Disorders can even occur together.

What does a processing disorder mean for the child? CLASSROOM LEARNING CAN BE EXTREMELY CHALLENGING, even when a child is trying their very hardest!

What should a parent do?

If you have any questions as to if your child may be struggling with a processing disorder, it is important to have them evaluated as early as possible. This process involves the coordinated efforts of an audiologist and a speech language pathologist. Their combined test results will indicate if processing is an issue for your child, or if there may be other factors that are standing in the way of your child’s academic success. A plan of action, using strategic approaches, can be put into place to work towards building on specific skill sets and strategies to help them achieve more success at listening and communicating.

But what if your child is approaching adolescence and you are just discovering processing issues – is it too late? Absolutely not! Research has shown that the window of time for the brain to learn new skills reaches much further past youth than previously thought. In fact, because adolescents are a frequently overlooked population in regards to speech and language issues, it is well worth exploring what specific needs they may have in order to help them achieve better success with academics.

Who Should I Seek Out To Help My Child?

After a diagnosis of a processing disorder is made, it is a speech and language pathologist who has master’s level training to use strategic approaches for intervention with students who range in age from pre-school through high school. While a tutor may help your child acquire knowledge within a specific area of academics, a speech and language pathologist trains foundational processing skills and strategies necessary for your child to be successful on their own.

Occasionally by middle school, some students with processing issues also show signs of struggle with self-regulation such as staying attentive during conversations, initiating their homework, showing appropriate social behavior, or expressing their emotions. At Associated Speech and Language Specialists, we work closely with adolescents, families, pediatricians, and school personnel to establish goals and treatment strategies to improve our patients’ ability to successfully interact with others and learn independently.

Family Fun Event!



Water Park of America is hosting a FUN family event for the Minnesota Autism Speaks Community! Event is on Sunday, April 10th from 5pm-8pm, Wristbands for the event are \$7.00. Before March 27, 2016 visit <http://events.autismspeaks.org/waterparkofamerica>.

*Event flyers are located in each ASLS office.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Shelly

Shelly is co-owner of ASLS, and works in our St. Paul office.

Her co-workers describe her as: Knowledgeable, creative and kind.

Born and raised in: Shelly was born in South Dakota and raised in Minnesota.

Family: Shelly's family includes her husband, 25 year old daughter, 21 year old son and 92 year old Dad.

3 things she can't live without: Unhurried time with her family, a trip to a new destination to look forward to, and chocolate.

Favorite restaurant: Any that serves Vietnamese food.

Favorite book: The Little House on the Prairie series.

Favorite movie: The Wizard of Oz.

If you had a million dollars: Shelly would travel with some of the money, and find fun and creative ways to secretly give some away.

People don't know this but: Shelly learned to sail a boat when she was 10 years old!

The new faces of ASLS!

You may have noticed some new faces around the office.
We are happy to have the following people join our team!
Please join in welcoming them!



Jodi – Plymouth



Erica – Maplewood



Mindy – St. Paul



Therese – Shoreview



Tara – Shoreview

Welcome!



Our Maplewood office is moving! Our new address will be 2395 Ariel, St. B! Our new office will be right next door to Children's Theraplay!

We will share more details as they come available!



STAR CLIENT: Pierce, St. Paul office

What Pierce's SLP Shelly has to say about him: Pierce started coming to ASLS in May of last year, after he was diagnosed with a hearing loss in both ears and "Abnormal Auditory Perception" (or Central Auditory Processing Disorder). His goals include improving his ability to follow directions, listening for/recalling details from information said aloud to him and learning to tell the differences between sounds in words – in short, to be the best listener he can possibly be! Pierce is making great progress. He always brings a positive attitude and great enthusiasm to each of his sessions. He is eager to learn and try new things.

According to Pierce:

Pierce's favorite food is Rigatoni Alfredo, but only from the Macaroni Grill, which, sadly for Pierce, is no longer in the Twin Cities. His favorite thing to do is play video games and post them on his own YouTube channel: GrandWolfz. His favorite colors are orange, blue, and black. He is 11 years old and is in 5th grade. One thing Pierce says he'd like people to know about him, is that he uses a Phonic Blue Tooth Microphone, which helps to pick up voices and amplify them in his ears. He says he wears it because he has a hearing disparity and this device makes it easier for him to hear. Pierce says that since he started using it, the distractions caused by his ADHD and background noises are less of a problem. Or, as Pierce puts it, "Now I know what to focus on."

According to Pierce's mom:

We tell Pierce that we come to ASLS because, when we didn't know about his processing issues, he developed listening skills that weren't helping him learn his best. Now that we know and he has the device he needs, he needs specific instruction to help him learn to develop better listening and learning.

Reminder - The holidays we are closed are:

New Years Day

Good Friday

Memorial Day

4th of July

Labor Day

Thanksgiving Day/Friday after

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Please remember to attend therapy on any other holiday your child has off of school. A 25.00 fee will be billed for any appointment with no show/ no call.

Please call our office if you have questions. Thank you.

****Weather closing/ cancellations****

If ASLS is closing offices due to weather, we will try to contact you at the numbers you provided, change all of our office voicemails to state the closure and post about the closure on our Facebook page. Please plan to attend your scheduled appointment unless you hear from us.

If you are planning on cancelling your appointment due to weather, please notify us as soon as possible. Please be especially courteous if you are the first/ last scheduled patient of the day. Our staff plans their schedules according to patient load.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ASSOCIATED SPEECH & LANGUAGE SPECIALISTS, LLC

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*For our mailing addresses, please refer to our website.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

<http://www.associatedspeech.com>



INSURANCE CHANGES??

To avoid out of pocket costs, please notify the front desk promptly with any changes in your insurance.



PLEASE NOTE: ASLS follows the same guidelines as the schools in regards to a sick child. **If your child has vomited, had a fever, persistent cough, or had persistent diarrhea in the last 24 hours, he/ she will be unable to attend therapy. Also, if your child has been diagnosed with a contagious illness (i.e. strep throat), we are unable to see them until after the child has been on prescribed medication for 24 hours.** Please follow the above guidelines to keep our other patients and our staff healthy. Thank you.

*You are receiving this email because you/ your child currently receives/ has attended therapy at Associated Speech & Language Specialists, LLC. *

To unsubscribe from list please email us at maplewood@associatedspeech.com or call 651-773-3208.

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