

AUDITORY

The auditory system is our ability to hear and process sounds. Our ears receive auditory input (sounds) and send those sounds to the brain for processing. The brain then determines which sounds are important and which sounds are unimportant and can be filtered out. The auditory system supports memory skills, association of sounds to symbols (letters, numbers, musical notes, tones, and attention).

When an auditory system is not functioning correctly, the brain will struggle to interpret messages coming in from the sounds the ear hears.

Signs of under responsive auditory system:

Seems to not hear sometimes (ignores).
Speaks loudly.
Makes constant noise (hums, clicks, etc.).
Enjoys loud music.
Calmed by 'white noise' (fans, water, dryers, etc.).
Puts things close to ear, to hear better/clearer.

Signs of over responsive auditory system:

Startled by sudden noises.
Often overwhelmed by background noise.
High pitched noises cause distress (ear pain).
Avoids social situations that can be loud (parties).
Avoids everyday 'noisy' items (hand dryers, blenders, etc.).

Activities that support auditory development:

- Activities that connect sounds with concept
- Calming music
- Noise reducing headphones

- Music therapy/classes
- Sound machine
- Quiet spaces
- Audio books/lessons
- Visuals to support verbal communication