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NEURODEVELOPMENTAL TEAM

ACTIVITIES/STRATEGIES TO ASSIST THE CHILD WITH AN UNDERRESPONSIVE AUDITORY SYSTEM



Children with an under-responsive reaction to information from the Auditory sensory system can find it difficult to process information and to understand what is being said or asked of them. This involves more than a sense of hearing, the child needs to be able to discriminate between different sounds, to decode sounds and to remember what is being said to him. The child may present as confused or inattentive. They may start to complete a task without fully understanding what is expected of them or may take a long time to respond to instructions. The following are a number of strategies to assist the child in developing auditory processing.

Touching the child on the shoulder before issuing an instruction can help them to focus. It is important to be aware if the child has any tactile sensitivity issues prior to doing so.

-  Don't overload the child with instructions that are complex, instead break them down into stages and give one instruction at a time.
-  Use short clear concise phrases and repeat instructions if necessary.
-  Ensure that the child has correctly heard and understood the instructions by asking him to repeat them before attempting the task.
-  Encourage the child to look at you when you speak to him/her.
-  Whenever possible remove other auditory distractions from the environment.
-  Give physical prompts or demonstrations to back up verbal instructions.
-  Some children respond better to a multi-sensory approach to instructions i.e. they are backed up by pictures, symbols, objects, writing etc. especially if they are left on display for him/her to refer to them.
-  Whenever possible provide a quiet area removed from the classroom or other noisy home environment for the child to go to calm down.