

# **Types of Learning Disabilities**

## **Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD)**

Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD) is a learning disability in which an individual hears sounds but cannot process them correctly into words and language. People with CAPD may have trouble understanding what they hear, acting on it quickly, remembering it for a short or long time, and formulating a verbal response.

*A CAPD is a physical hearing impairment, but one which does not show up as a hearing loss on routine screenings or an audiogram. Instead, it affects the hearing system beyond the ear, whose job it is to separate a meaningful message from non-essential background sound and deliver that information with good clarity to the intellectual centres of the brain (the central nervous system). When we receive distorted or incomplete auditory messages we lose one of our most vital links with the world and other people.*

These “short circuits in the wiring” can result in behaviours that mask the real problem and complicate not only school and work, but even close relationships, where communication is so important.

### **Some common signs of CAPD are:**

- Talks or likes T.V. louder than normal
- Interprets words too literally
- Often needs remarks repeated
- Difficulty sounding out words
- “Ignores” people, especially if engrossed
- Unusually sensitive to sounds
- Asks many extra informational questions
- Confuses similar-sounding words
- Difficulty following directions in a series
- Speech developed late
- Poor “communicator” (terse, telegraphic)
- Memorizes poorly
- Hears better when watching the speaker
- Problems with rapid speech