**Understanding Auditory Processing Difficulties:**

Children with auditory processing difficulties have difficulty processing the spoken word and using verbal information to learn.  It is a problem that is exaggerated in poor acoustic environments and is associated with difficulty listening, language understanding and problems with language development and learning.

Behaviors present in Auditory Processing deficits
- Children tend to give slow or delayed responses to verbal information
- They tend to recall the last part of a sequence
- They tend to forget what is said shortly after it's said.
- Frequently say, "huh", "what" due to short attention span and difficulty with auditory information.
- Children with auditory processing problems frequently have poor reading and early literacy skills such as rhyming, phonics, sound blending.
- They often "mishear" words.
- They tend to have difficulty interacting with peers and prefer younger aged kids or adults.

**Guidelines for Helping Children with Auditory Processing Difficulties**
- Provide extra processing time after you give verbal instructions.
- Use simpler sentences when giving new information.
- Inform your child about the topic you want to discuss.
- Use number of steps to help children remember sequences or multistep commands; "You have to do 3 things;  1.  Get your back pack. 2. Get your jacket.  3.  Wait by the door."
- Have children repeat or rephrase to check for comprehension.
- Make the environment less noisy and void of distractions when giving verbal instructions.
- Teach compensation strategies;  like teaching to use reminder notes, repeating directions to yourself to help remember, ask for clarification.
- Play phonics games and keep it fun!