

Southeastern Child Care Resource & Referral and Choctaw Nation Child Care Assistance



CHILD CARE CONNECTION SUMMER 2022 EDITION



QRIS Questions



Have questions that need answers? Don't stress, just call the help desk!

Contact the DHS Helpline at 1-405-521-6177 or email them at QRIS@okdhs.org.

Want to request a coach, click below:

<https://oklahoma.gov/okdhs/services/child-care-services/qris/resources.html>

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“Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero to me.”

Mr. Rogers



Southeastern Oklahoma State University
Department of Child Care Resource and Referral
425 West University BLVD.
Durant, OK, 74701-0609





What Is Auditory Processing Disorder? Symptoms, Comorbidities, and Exercises



BY BEVERLEY HOLDEN JOHNS

What Is Auditory Processing Disorder?

Auditory processing disorder (APD) is a problem that occurs when the ears and brain are not in sync. This disconnect can cause a range of challenges – struggles with auditory discrimination, listening in noisy environments, remembering what you've heard, and recalling the sequence of words spoken – that may resemble (and co-occur with) other conditions.

APD may interfere with learning, however, it is not correlated with intelligence. It may cause communication difficulties, but it does not show up in traditional auditory tests for hearing loss. It is a misunderstood and largely overlooked condition that may appear in 3% to 5% of all children.

Difficulties associated with APD frequently fall into these categories:

- **Auditory discrimination:** noticing and differentiating similar but unique sounds
- **Auditory memory:** remembering what they heard
- **Auditory sequencing:** recalling words and directions in the correct order
- **Auditory figure-ground:** discerning and processing a single audio input amid competing stimuli (e.g., background noise) (Most Common APD diagnosis)
- **Auditory cohesion difficulty;** or problems processing when undertaking higher-level listening tasks (e.g., difficulty drawing inferences from the conversation, picking up on tone and inflection, understanding riddles.)

Auditory Processing Disorder: Common Signs and Challenges:

The signs of auditory processing disorder often include the following daily challenges and manifestations:

- Trouble following verbal directions
- A blank stare when spoken to; may appear distracted or unfocused
- Trouble following conversations with multiple speakers or background noise
- Difficulty distinguishing similar-sounding words, like “coat” and “boat”
- Trouble following multi-step directions in the correct order
- Noticeable delay in responding to conversational questions

In addition to these communication difficulties, APD may trigger the following additional challenges for students:

- Behavior Problems
- Anxiety
- Poor social skills
- Academic Challenges



Strategies to Help Children with APD Remediation, Skill-Building, and Accommodations



Auditory Figure Ground is the most common APD diagnosis among young children. These activities and accommodations address "Auditory Figure Ground" exercises and accommodations to help improve communication skills and the overall learning experience. For exercises and accommodations of the other APD listed on the previous page, please follow the link below.

Auditory Figure Ground: Exercises

- Ask students to close their eyes and point to the physical source of a sound.
- Record a conversation and ask students to listen and reflect on what they learned.
- Experiment with music; have your child or student repeat lyrics from different songs. (Take note of what type of music is most challenging in this exercise.)

Auditory Figure Ground: Accommodations

- Sit students with APD close to the board and to your voice.
- Minimize distracting noises in the classroom.
- Allow students to wear headphones to block out background sounds while working.
- Consider providing environmental accommodations by improving the classroom carpeting and acoustics.
- Important: Teach students to be alert to safety issues and instructions (like fire alarms and protocols).

Auditory Processing Disorder: Next Steps

- **Free Download:** [20 Learning Strategies Designed for Students with ADHD](#)
- **Read:** [Learning Disabilities Overview – Reading, Writing & Math Disorders](#)
- **Read:** [Sounds Like Auditory Processing Disorder](#)

The content for this article was derived, in part, from the ADDitude ADHD Experts webinar titled ["What Did You Say? Differentiating Auditory Processing Disorder from ADHD in Children"](#) [Video Replay & Podcast #378] with Beverley Holden Johns, which was broadcast live on November 2, 2021



The full article can be found and read at <https://www.additudemag.com/what-is-auditory-processing-disorder-symptoms-exercises/amp/>

Congratulations on Increasing Your Star Rating!

Shine ON

1 + Star

- None at this time

2 Star

- Ma'Kinlei's Playhouse LLC, Idabel

3 Star

- None at this time

SCHOLARS FOR EXCELLENCE IN CHILD CARE, PROGRAM UPDATES

- ➔ One-star facilities are now eligible for scholarship (Exceptions include: military or tribally licensed facilities must be a one plus). Permitted facilities are not eligible.
- ➔ The scholarship will pay tuition fees and books 100% after all other eligible financial aid is applied.
- ➔ There is no requirement for consecutive months of employment in child care during this time frame.

For more information or additional question, contact a Scholars Coordinator:

Heather McLean

Child Development Scholars Coordinator
Murry State College
580-319-0304 (Office)
580-371-6679 (Cell)
hmclean@mscok.edu

Verna Corley

Scholar Coordinator
Carl Albert State College
918-647-1252 (Office)
918-385-1341 (Cell)
vcorley@carlalbert.edu

Bailey Maxey

Scholars for Excellence in Child Care
405-225-9133 (Office)
bmaxey@osrhe.edu



Quality Rating and Improvement System

The relaunch time has come for Oklahoma's Quality Rating and Improvement System and we are excited! This is a very exciting time for our child care professionals and Oklahoma's children. Below are some reminders as we transition to the new system:

- Level 1+ is being removed and levels 4 and 5 are being added.
- In general, the old Star levels are moving up to the next level using a blend of old criteria and some new criteria.
- Programs have 2 options when applying:
 - 1. Online Application** - This option requires completion of the online application verifying the program meets the Star level they are applying for. When choosing this option, programs complete the online application and submit the required documentation to verify required criteria are being met.
 - 2. Transitional Application** - This option allows programs to opt-out of the complete application process. If this option is selected, effective 1-1-23 programs' Star level will be automatically transitioned to the next level up from their current Star level (i.e. 1+ transitions to 2, 2 transitions to 3, 3 transitions to 4). Programs choosing the Transitional Application will not be eligible for the incentives.

To select this option, programs will email QRIS@okdhs.org with the subject line "Transitional Application" and license number. They will show in the email that they are requesting a transitional application and their current star level.

- The online application process will begin on June 1, 2022. Programs will have six months to complete their applications, which must be submitted before Nov. 30, 2022. During this time, programs will continue to operate and receive subsidy reimbursement at their existing Star level.
- Beginning Jan. 1, 2023, all-new Star levels will become effective.
- There are amazing incentives that will be issued during this reapplication timeframe. In order to receive all the incentives, programs must apply and submit a complete request for a certification by 11/30/2022.
- Helpful resources are available for every section of QRIS criteria at www.cccpd.org under the Resources tab.

If you have questions or if assistance is needed, please contact your Licensing Specialist, the Call Center (405-521-6177), a Stars Outreach Specialist, or a Coach. We would be happy to help, as we want this to be successful for everyone!

Summer Recipe



Filled Cucumber Cups

Ingredients: • English cucumbers (other varieties will work, but these have minimal to no seeds)

Directions:

1. Use a vegetable peeler to remove four strips of peel down the length of each cucumber, leaving four dark green strips unpeeled. Cut off the ends of each cucumber and cut the remainder into 3/4-inch (2 cm) rounds.
2. Using a small melon baller or spoon, scoop out the seeds or center of each round, being careful not to poke through the bottom.
3. Fill based on the filling made or child's preference.

Filling Option 1: Pesto Goat Cheese

Ingredients:

4 ounces (115 g) soft goat cheese
2 to 3 tablespoons pesto (store-bought is fine)
2 tablespoons pine nuts (optional)
2 leaves fresh basil, julienned (optional)
Cherry tomatoes, halved (optional)



To make filling option 1, blend the goat cheese and pesto until evenly mixed. Fill cups as desired and garnish.

Filling Option 2: Dill and Bacon Cream Cheese

Ingredients:

1/4 cup (55 g) cream cheese
1/4 cup (55 g) plain 2 percent Greek yogurt
1 strip of cooked bacon, crumbled into tiny pieces
1 teaspoon celery salt
1 teaspoon dried dill
1 teaspoon onion flake
1 sprig fresh dill (optional)
1 more strip cooked and crumbled for garnish (optional)



To make filling option 2, blend the cream cheese, yogurt, bacon, and spices until evenly mixed. Fill cups as desired and garnish.

Filling Option 3: Tuna Salad

Ingredients:

One 5-ounce (142 g) can white albacore tuna packed in water, drained
1/4 cup (60 g) mayonnaise, or slightly more to taste
1 to 2 tablespoons pickle relish
Pinch of black pepper
3 tablespoons shredded cheddar (optional)
1 sprig fresh dill (optional)



To make filling option 3, blend the tuna, mayo, relish, and pepper until evenly mixed. Fill cups as desired and garnish.

Supporting Transitions

Songs you can sing or chant introduce children to vocabulary, build language comprehension, support math learning, promote self-regulation, and inspire creativity. Songs give children the opportunity to repeat and reinforce concepts in a playful and joyous way.

Five Little Peas

5

Age Group: Infants

What You Need: Materials not needed

What You Do: Sing the following lyrics while acting out the words. Five little peas in a pea pod pressed (cup two hands and pretend there are peas hidden inside them), one grew, two grew (slowly lift one finger and then another), and so did the rest (begin to separate your hands from each other, but not completely). They grew and grew and did not stop (inflate your hands until they look like a ball), until one day they all went pop! (clap hands together on the word "pop").

What They Learn: This finger-play can capture the infant's attention or call mobile infants to you. Wondering what might be inside your hands will inspire their natural curiosity, and children will be introduced to math skills such as counting, sequencing, and patterning.

Source: Easy Songs for Smooth Transitions in the Classroom by Nina Araújo and Carol Aghayan (2006, Redleaf Press).

Puzzles to Go

Age Group: Preschool

What You Need: Poster board, glue sticks, pictures from magazines, postcards or greeting cards, clear contact paper, sealable plastic sandwich bags, box or tote, and sharp scissors (adult-use only).

What You Do: Glue pictures to a piece of poster board, and when they are dry cover them with clear contact paper. Use scissors to cut the pictures into puzzle pieces. Store each puzzle in a plastic bag, and place the bags in a box. During transitions, children who are waiting can choose a puzzle to do. Once everyone is done, the puzzles can be put away.

What They Learn: Children learn how to entertain themselves while they are waiting, and they practice spatial awareness, eye-hand coordination, patterning, and problem-solving skills.

Source: Transition Magician: Strategies for Guiding Young Children in Early Childhood Programs by Nola Larson, Mary Henthorne, and Barbara Plum (1994, Red Leaf Press).

Spinner Story Boards

Age Group: School Age

What You Need: An eighteen-inch diameter circle from a piece of poster board, scrap pieces of poster board to make arrows, permanent markers, brad fasteners, pictures from die cuts or magazines, glue sticks, and a ruler.

What You Do: Make the story board by dividing the circle into six equal wedges. Use the ruler and a permanent marker to draw the lines. Poke a hole in the center of the circle and attach an arrow shaped pointer made from poster board scraps with a brad fastener. Glue one picture in each section for a total of six pictures. When children are waiting during transitions, they can sit in a group with the story boards. One child spins the arrow and starts a story using the picture as inspiration. Each child takes a turn adding to the story, until the group is satisfied that their story is complete. Make several different spinner story boards and store them in a box.

What They Learn: Children learn to express themselves creatively, take turns, work cooperatively to complete a goal, improve vocabulary, and practice communication skills.

Name That Singer

Age Group: Toddlers

What You Need: Tape recorder or digital recorder on a phone or tablet.

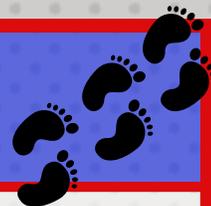
What You Do: Once children have learned one or two songs, record their individual voices singing. Once children's songs have been recorded, play the recordings and ask children to identify each singer. Once the children have named the singer, they can join in and finish the song. If children cannot guess the singer by the end of the song, give them hints about the singer such as eye color, what they are wearing that day, or where they are sitting. If you record the song as a video, you can also show the children who is singing.

What They Learn: This activity encourages children to practice listening and language skills, identify people by their voice, and express themselves creatively.

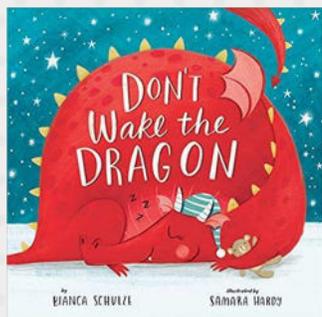
Sources: Transition Magician: Strategies for Guiding Young Children in Early Childhood Programs by Nola Larson, Mary Henthorne, and Barbara Plum (1994, Red Leaf Press).



LITERACY FOR TRANSITIONS



Don't Wake the Dragon



Don't Wake the Dragon is a fantastic and interactive bedtime story featuring a sound-asleep dragon who under no circumstances is to be woken up! Children are tasked with checking in on the sleeping dragon as the castle cook drops his pots and pans and when the knights throw a loud birthday party. It isn't until the whole kingdom settles down that the dragon wakes up. What is the kingdom to do? Designed to be read aloud and interacted with, parents will take pleasure in the playful text as much as children will enjoy gently rocking the book from side to side as they sing the dragon a lullaby. When the story finally comes to an end, and the gentle lullaby is repeated, the dragon (and the child!) is encouraged to drift off to sleep.

Ages Infant - 6

Help Your Dragon Deal with Change

Having a pet dragon is very fun!

He can sit, roll over, and play... He can candle a birthday cake, lit a campfire, or so many other cool things... But what if your dragon is afraid of change?

What if he doesn't like his new teacher and her teaching style and refuses to go to school?

What if he's sad because his favorite pool is closed, and he's afraid to try the newer, bigger pool because of the unknowns?

What if he hates to say goodbye to his old soccer team, and doesn't want to join a new one?

What if he'd have a hard time whenever something changes, or when things no longer how they used to be?

What should you do? You teach him how to deal with change!

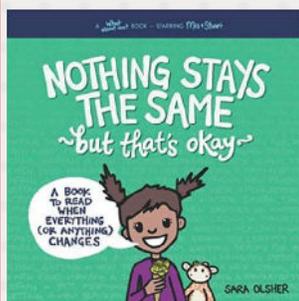
You teach him that everything changes. Change happens, and life keeps changing. Instead of avoiding change, he needs to learn to adapt, anticipate, and enjoy the new experience when the change comes his way!

But How??? Get this book and learn how!

Ages 4-8



Nothing Stays the Same, but That's Okay: A Book to Read When Everything (or Anything) Changes



Kids and grown-ups have lots of fears, but the "unknown" edges out pretty much everything else. When something changes in a child's life, life goes from predictable and safe to confusing . . . and kinda scary.

Kids (like the rest of us) handle change best if they know what to expect, both on a day-to-day basis and long-term. Join Mia and her stuffed giraffe Stuart as they explain changes big and small and how they affect a kid's day-to-day life. Using an illustrated calendar to explain how changes affects a child's daily routine, Nothing Stays the Same But That's Okay focuses on the child's experience and removes unknowns from the equation.

This book is a therapist-approved resource for teaching kids the coping skills necessary for adapting to transitions and change. By introducing the concept of an overwhelmed, too-busy brain, kids are empowered to recognize overwhelm in themselves and choose from a variety of tools to help manage it.

Ages 2-11

Southeastern Child Care Resource & Referral Training Schedule

For questions or assistance with locating training near you, please call
CECPD at 1.888.446.7608 or visit www.okregistry.org

You can find training courses at <https://okregistry.org/v7/trainings/search>,
and use the search bar to locate specific courses by name, trainer, in-person,
online, etc.



Virtual Training



FREE INFORMAL: Early Childhood Investigations Webinars is a wonderful resource to utilize in earning informal professional development hours for FREE. It is an ongoing series of conference-quality free webinars for early childhood educators. The engaging webinars are presented by many of the thought-leaders and experts in the field of early care and education. The webinars explore critical topics that offer new ideas and insights to all early childhood professionals. To learn more, visit their website at <https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/presentations/>



PennState Extension

FORMAL APPROVED: The Center for Early Childhood Professional Development has partnered with **PennState Extension**, a modern organization dedicated to providing research-based information for online education. The **Better Kid Care Program** with PennState Extension, offers On Demand Web Lessons at only \$5 per course and you may receive formal credit with courses that are 2+ hours. Lesson topics range from the importance to sleep to building community support and so much more! Of the many courses that they offer, 13 are specific to Family Child Care Homes. Visit their site today to try two lessons for FREE– Resilient Caregivers: ‘Bouncing Back’ from Stress and Safe Sleep Practices for Caregivers: Reduce the Risk of SUID. To learn more go to <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/betterkidcare/on-demand>

Click Below to Visit the CECPD Statewide Training Calendar:

[Visit the CECPD Statewide Training Calendar for additional information
or to register for trainings!](#)



SE CCR&R Hours



Southeastern Campuses are open to the public. The CCR&R Office hours are Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm for the college summer schedule. We are a small staff and travel frequently. Please call before you visit to ensure someone will be in the office. SE is a mask-friendly campus, and our office will provide masks to those that would like to use them. If you need assistance, please call or email our office, and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Thank you for helping us in providing a safe environment for all!

Special Holidays / Office Closures

July

**4th - Independence Day
(SE CLOSED)**
10th - Teddy Bear Picnic Day
25th - National Chili Dog Day
31st - National Watermelon Day

August

4th - National Chocolate Chip
Cookie Day
12th - National Kool-Aid Day
16th - National Tell A Joke
Day

September

**5th - Labor Day
(SE Closed)**
13th - Positive Thinking Day
20th - National Pepperoni Pizza
Day

We are here to help! However, we are a small staff and our office hours vary depending upon staff travel. Extended hours are available upon request. Before you plan a visit, regardless of time, please call ahead to be sure our office is open. Thank you!

Get Remind Updates



Want newsletters sent directly to your phone, information about trainings and special events?

**Text @secrr2 to 81010 or
Click here to join our Remind group!**

Remind is also a wonderful resource for keeping communication open with your families.

[Click here to find out how Remind can help you.](#)

Pick a way to receive messages for **Southeastern Child Care Resource & Referral - 2:**

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/secrr2

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

Southeastern Child Care Resource & Referral



About Us

SECCR&R's focus is to assist child care providers in delivering quality child care to children and families.

SECCR&R does this by presenting or arranging training for those who work with children, recruiting additional child care providers, and administering one-on-one technical assistance in child care programs.

Provider Services

- technical assistance
- use of our resource room
- professional development opportunities
- use of our lending library

For more information, call (580) 745-2105 or, check out our website: <http://www.se.edu/dept/childcare/>



The Center for Early Childhood Professional Development

The Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD) reflects Oklahoma's commitment to quality early care and education by providing professional development that produces results! Created in 1998 using federal child development block grant funds, the Center supports the individuals who work in licensed child care facilities throughout Oklahoma. The settings include Head Start programs, family child care homes, child care centers, and pre-Kindergarten.



For more information, go online at cecpd.org

To find a training in your area, go to the Oklahoma Statewide Training Calendar at www.okregistry.org



Child Care WARMLINE



The Warmline for Oklahoma Child Care Providers offers free telephone consultations on numerous topics of concern. Consultants refer providers to appropriate services and resources within their communities. A consultant can help clarify a problem, provide information, help generate ideas and solutions, offer guidance on developmentally appropriate practices, provide referrals to meet individual needs and requests, direct providers to relevant resources to assist with a concern, and provide follow-up when needed.

Call: 1-888-574-5437

Email your questions: warmline@health.ok.gov



Scholars for Excellence in Child Care, Stipends



The Scholars program awards stipends for the completion of a Child Development Associate (CDA), Certificate of Mastery, Directors Certificate of Completion, Associates Degree, and Bachelors Degree.

- CDA stipends start at \$600
- Certificate of Mastery stipend starts at \$800
- Directors Certificate of Completion \$1,000
- Associate Degree stipend starts at \$1,500
- Bachelors Degree stipend starts at \$2,000

For more information about the Scholars Program in the Southeastern Region please contact Verna Corley at Carl Albert State College at 918.647.1252 or The State Scholarship Office at 405.225.9397



Go to <https://www.okhighered.org/scholars/> for more information



Coronavirus News & Resources for Child Care Professionals, Families and Policymakers

Child Care Aware® of America (CCAoA) is committed to providing news and the latest information to help prepare families, child care providers and policymakers as we closely monitor the situation around the Coronavirus(COVID-19) outbreak. To equip communities, CCAoA gathered resources to ensure the safety of all individuals. We are also interested in learning how Coronavirus has impacted your community. Your comments will help inform CCAoA and policymaker

Click below for resources:

<https://info.childcareaware.org/coronavirus-updates#providersdit>



DHS County Offices for Southeast Region

Atoka County DHS
801 S. Greathouse Dr.
Atoka, OK 74525-3436
(580) 889-3394
1-800-225-0051

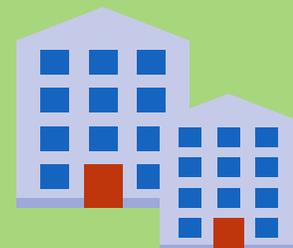
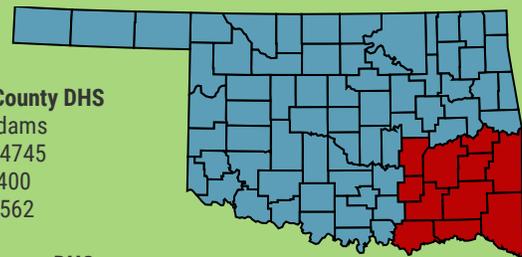
Bryan County DHS
4302 Hwy. 70 West
Durant, OK 74701
(580) 931-2500
1-800-225-0062

Leflore County DHS
511 S. Harper
Poteau, OK 74953
(918) 649-2300
1-800-493-7960

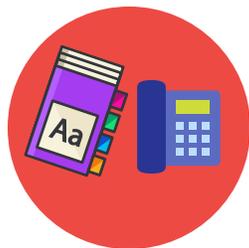
Pushmataha County DHS
104 S.E. "B" St.
Antlers, OK 74523
(580) 298-3361
1-800-270-0803

McCurain County DHS
1300 S.E. Adams
Idabel, OK 74745
(580) 208-3400
1-800-815-7562

Pittsburg County DHS
1900 South Main
McAlester, OK 74501
(918) 421-6100
1-800-270-0792



Due to DHS office closures, office hours and locations are subject to change.



Helpful Contacts and Resources

Reaching for the Stars

Tiffany McPherson

Serving the following SE OK counties:
Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell,
Hughes, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain,
Pittsburg, and Pushmataha.
918.348.8518
Tiffany.Mcpherson@okdhs.org

Services

Child Care Warmline

888.574.5437
warmline@health.ok.gov

Center for Early Childhood Professional Development

888.446.7608
www.cecpd.org

Office of Background Investigations

800.347.2276

OK DHS Child Care Services

844.834.8314

Scholars for Excellence in Child Care

866.343.3881
www.okhighered.org/scholars

Resources

Locate Quality Child Care

800.438.0008

211 Oklahoma

https://www.211ok.org/

Zero to Three

202.638.1144
www.zerotothree.org

Child Care Aware

800.424.2246
www.childcareaware.org

NAEYC

800.424.2460
www.naeyc.org

Online Provider Training

www.SmartHorizons.org

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kturner@choctawnation.com

Elizabeth Thompson

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ethompson@choctawnation.com

Rhonda Vaught

Early Steps To Literacy Coordinator
rvaught@choctawnation.com

Find SE CCR&R
online at:

