

Let's Talk Learning Disabilities

EPISODE 13

In this Episode, Laurie and Abbey interview friends, Amy & Michael Gehan who own their practice at Achieve Speech & Hearing in Plano, Texas. They discuss auditory processing, speech pathology and how they work together hand in hand. This interview is split between two episodes, 13 & 14. Continue listening or reading for the full interview.

What is Central Auditory Processing Disorder? (5 min)

Central auditory processing disorders affect an individual's ability to process speech. Amy & Michael primarily work with children who's processing may not be fully developed. They discuss the way they go about treating a student that has a probable disorder by first ruling out any physical reasons for a hearing problem. As a licensed audiologist, Michael is able to assess the physical capabilities of someone's hearing which helps them to understand why the individual is having the problems that are presenting. Common symptoms of a central auditory processing disorder might include a student missing chunks of information given orally, being easily distracted by background noise, and not being able to follow multi-step directions. Once Michael evaluates for any physical interferences, he can then either treat the physical hearing issue, refer to an ENT, or recommend the speech pathology as treatment.

Challenges with Auditory Processing Issues (17 min)

In students who have an auditory processing disorder, normal learning activities like taking down notes or testing may be challenging. Amy, as a Speech Pathologist, can work with parents and students to advocate for assistance like an FM device as a part of a student's section 504 plan. FM systems are electronic devices that magnify the teacher or presenters voice to be louder than the background noise in the room. There has been research that shows a positive impact on understanding and learning in students with an auditory or attention disorder with the use of FM devices.

Seeking Private Testing & Treatment (24 min)

Laurie & Abbey ask Amy & Michael about testing for an auditory processing disorder and why it isn't taken care of by schools. Amy explains that auditory processing falls in the same medical umbrella as autism might. It is something that must be diagnosed and treated in the medical field, however schools are very understanding and work together with the parents and recommendations of the medical professionals to create a plan that best fits each student.

Part 2 Continued in Episode 14.

Resources

Achieve Hearing and Rehabilitation

Amy and Michael Gehan

<http://www.achievehearing.com/index.php>

Contact info for the podcast: letstalklearningdisabilities@gmail.com

E-Diagnostic Learning Website: <https://ediagnosticlearning.com>

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Length of episode 29:44