

Let's Talk Learning Disabilities

EPISODE 14

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. Listen or read the previous episode for the full interview.

Different Types of Language Disorders (8 min)

Other than struggling to make sounds, there are many ways a language disorder might show up for an individual. Amy explains different challenges that they face within the auditory and language processing umbrella as a whole. Children who have a gap between their expressive and receptive processing, such as knowing what they are trying to communicate, and not being able to get those words out. Comprehension issues, speech deficits due to articulation errors, weak mouth muscles, swallowing issues, tongue movement issues, and even picky eaters can all be residual effects of what might show up under that umbrella as a whole.

Auditory Processing Evaluation (12 min)

Amy speaks to the detail and approach taken when a client comes to them for a central auditory processing evaluation. She gives an example of one of her patients who they found out was a silent aspirator, because of the swallowing eval that takes place throughout the process. Food & liquid was actually falling down the back of her throat, toward the lungs without any obvious signs of aspiration like coughing or choking. Because of the indepth look at all areas surrounding the patient, they were able to find the root cause and address it with therapy.

CAPD and Other Learning Disabilities (14 min)

Central Auditory Processing issues sometimes are found because of ruling out other disabilities like ADHD or dyslexia, and some-times the co-exist and play off of one another. The occurrence of these together is completely random. Laurie shares a success story of a dyslexia patient she was treating with therapy. The student had gone through a well-known dyslexia therapy program and really seemed to hit a wall in eighth grade. After a year or two of speech therapy, she had made a world of progress.

When to Seek Out an Audiological Evaluation (16 min)

There is no right or wrong answer to this question. Amy, having seen students go through therapy after varying ranges of time spent focusing on other potential issues, urges listeners to start having honest conversations with therapists, care takers, etc as soon as you realize you've hit a wall in progress. If you as the individual or as a parent, feel as though your current treatment is not working, speak up and suggest more explorative treatment. Many of the signs for central auditory processing look a lot like attention deficit. And so other red flags to look for might be when attention is an issue, only when hearing is involved, not necessarily when visual tasks are taking place. If they are not hearing sounds correctly, or hear phrases incorrectly while being very adamant that they've heard something else.

Where to Look for Help (24 min)

Hearing tests definitely need to be done by a licensed audiologist. Any audiologists, and language therapists should be licensed in their area, and have a certificate of clinical competence. Amy also recommends that you check out websites of providers in your area and observe how clear their knowledge and expertise of central auditory processing is. A phone call to the therapist in that office will also be a great way to find out more about expertise and skill set in treating CAP.

Resources

Achieve Hearing and Rehabilitation

Amy and Michael Gehan

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

American Academy of Audiology

<https://www.audiology.org>

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

<https://www.asha.org>

Contact info for the podcast: letstalklearningdisabilities@gmail.com

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