

FAST FORWARD FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH APD

Fast ForWord is a computer-based auditory, language and attention training program that has been proven to assist many children who are diagnosed with Central Auditory Processing Disorder, Language Disorder and Attention Deficit Disorder. It is a program that requires students to undertake intensive listening tasks via a computer. The daily computer-based tasks are done at home or at school, for approximately 1 hour, reducing the need for travel and lengthy 1:1 appointments with a professional. The program adapts and presents listening games and tasks that meet your child's capability level. The daily

practice at games and tasks stimulates the auditory, language and attention areas of the brain. The program is monitored remotely (via email contact) by a clinician at AHC. All results from the week are forwarded giving an idea of the child's progress.

This effective, computer-based auditory-language training program is now available at a lower price. Three months of intensive, monitored training now costs \$1440. Contact our office to discuss which version of the program is suitable for your child.

APD RESEARCH

Ms Emilie Lam, a current PhD candidate at Flinders University, is inviting children aged between 7 and 9 years who have been diagnosed with APD in the past one year and have reading difficulty to take part in a study that aims to evaluate the effectiveness of different forms of training in helping children with auditory processing disorder to learn to read.

Initially, your child will attend a first round assessment, which can take place at the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Flinders University, or alternatively, at a quiet room at home depending on your preference. During this assessment, your child will undertake hearing and vision screening, and testing for non-verbal IQ, auditory perceptual ability, reading, language and attention. This will take approximately 3 hours. If your child's ability matches the requirement of the study, your child will be randomly assigned to one of four groups. The training that the groups undergo will be different but all training is designed to facilitate auditory processing and reading skills. All training programs are computer game-based and will be carried out at home. The training programs will be loaded onto your family's home computer. Your child would need to play the game for 20 minutes a day, four days a week for six weeks or for 12 weeks depending on the group that they are assigned to. The study is aiming to see how the different treatments can improve children's auditory processing, language and literacy skills. Please note that all treatment is free of charge.

If you would like to take part in this study or gain further information, please contact Ms. Emilie Lam, lam0043@flinders.edu.au, 0430 562 308. This study has been reviewed by the Flinders Clinical Research Ethics Committee. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, in particular in relation to policies, your rights as a participant, or should you wish to make a confidential complaint, you may contact the executive officer on 8204 4507 or email research.ethics@health.sa.gov.au.

MURRAY BRIDGE VISITS, 2011

April 5 and 19, May 10 and 31, June 21 and July 12
CALL 8410 2900 FOR APPOINTMENTS

We are proud of our new website, which we launched in Hearing Awareness Week, 2010.

We would love to hear what YOU think of it and if there is any else you would like to see there, so please take a look and send us an email
www.adelaidehearingconsultants.com.au

HOW TO CONTACT ADELAIDE HEARING CONSULTANTS

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(next to the Arts Theatre)
Ph 8410 2900 Fax 8410 2902
Email: city@adelaidehearingconsultants.com.au

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(situated on Old Tapleys Hill Rd)
Ph 8376 0999 Fax 8376 0255
Email: glenelg@adelaidehearingconsultants.com.au

Office hours: 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.
Closed 1 - 2pm

www.adelaidehearingconsultants.com.au

ADELAIDE
Hearing
CONSULTANTS
Right hear. Right now.

Right hear. Right now.

the newsletter of Adelaide Hearing Consultants

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FROM THE DIRECTORS



Joanne works in our city office on Mondays and at Child and Youth Health the other days. Joanne will be assessing auditory processing in children and fitting hearing aids and providing associated rehabilitation services.

Virginia Moore has joined the administration staff. She works 1 or 2 days per week, mostly in the Glenelg office.

Christmas 2010: Instead of sending Christmas cards, we donated \$300 to the South Australian Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (SAALRM). The SAALRM makes Christmas a little brighter for well over 250 needy children and their families under the care of Aboriginal Family Support Services, by providing a Christmas function and gifts.

AHC staff also participated in the 2010 Glenelg Christmas Pageant. Staff walked and rode in an open-top vehicle with our 'hearing dogs' and our banner.

www.adelaidehearingconsultants.com.au
AHC are coming soon to Facebook.

We would like to say a very warm 'thank you' to all of our clients, friends and colleagues who attended our fund-raising event in Hearing Awareness Week, 2010. We raised over \$2500 for Indigenous hearing health research at the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin. Although it was a cold, wet and windy evening, our 50 or more guests were snug in the marquee and participated energetically in the charity auction.

New Staff: Joanne Sahhar has joined the clinical staff at Adelaide Hearing Consultants (AHC).

INSIDE INSIDE

A Thorough Hearing Test
Indigenous Hearing Health
Hearing Research
Tinnitus Information
Hearing Aid Technology
APD Info Sessions
Murray Bridge

THE STARTING POINT – A THOROUGH HEARING TEST

There are several important issues that need to be adhered to when gaining accurate hearing test results. These are a mix of technical issues and the capabilities of the tester. Accurate and reliable hearing assessments need:

1. A very quiet room
2. Regularly maintained and tested equipment
3. Experienced testers.

You can be confident that Adelaide Hearing Consultants meets these requirements. At the Adelaide, Glenelg and Murray Bridge Clinics we have specially constructed sound treated rooms. The Adelaide and Glenelg clinics have actual sound booths. All equipment that is used for testing hearing, CAP disorder, middle ear function and hearing aids has a strict calibration schedule which ensures that ALL AHC equipment is reliable in what it is recording. Finally, all our clinicians are university trained and experienced in testing procedures and with the equipment being used.

Our staff enjoy caring for your hearing needs. Please feel free to recommend our services to your friends and family so we can help them, too. Pensioners and veterans need to apply for a Hearing Services Voucher – please ask us for an application form. Private clients (adults and children) do not require a referral – simply call us for an appointment.

WHAT
CAN'T
I
HEAR
?

INDIGENOUS HEARING HEALTH

Judith and Christy provided hearing training to staff at the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service in November, 2010. Judith continued her visits to the Northern Territory to deliver training and has three trips planned for early 2011. Judith also attended a meeting in Sydney to help develop a National Curriculum in hearing health for Aboriginal Health

Workers. Christy will be travelling to Yalata in early May to assist with the Flinders University Ear Health Research team in their work with Indigenous children. Judith is attending a meeting in Queensland in April to help revise the Audiological Society of Australia's Guidelines for working with Indigenous Australian Populations.

? Feel free to call us and ask any questions about hearing

"If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please ask us to remove your name from our mailing list".

RESEARCH

RNID-funded Research Discovers New Gene for Childhood Deafness

Research funded by the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (UK) has discovered a new gene linked to inherited deafness, which could enable more families to identify the cause of their hearing loss. Knowledge of the genes that cause deafness can tell us more about how our hearing works, and help us develop much needed medicines to prevent deafness and restore hearing.

Temporary Hearing Loss Could Lead to Permanent Tinnitus

Research has recently revealed that if the ear is exposed to noise damage causing temporary hearing loss, permanent tinnitus can develop. This further illustrates just how important it is to protect your hearing from loud noise. Even if your hearing is not permanently affected, the way your brain processes the sound may be altered, which could result in a permanent tinnitus problem. Read more at www.rnid.org.uk/mediacentre.

AHC can supply custom-moulded earplugs for use in a variety of noisy situations (for musicians, shooters, workers in noisy jobs) to protect your hearing and reduce the risk of developing tinnitus.

How CAN I PREVENT HEARING LOSS ?

TINNITUS

WHAT CAN I DO FOR RINGING IN MY EARS ?

AHC Half-Day Tinnitus Management Course, 2011

Do you suffer from tinnitus – buzzing, ringing, whistling and other sounds in the ears or head? Have you been told to “go home and learn to live with it”? There ARE effective ways to reduce your attention to these annoying sounds and to regain control of your life. Hear about the causes and effects of tinnitus and ways you can reduce tinnitus annoyance successfully.

Call our City or Glenelg North office for more information or to book.

Glenelg North : April 12, September 6.

City : July 7

Tinnitus SA Free Tinnitus Information Sessions

April 14, Port Pirie

April 15, Whyalla

April 20, Christies Downs

May 9, Fullarton Park

June 7, Semaphore Park

July 1, Clare

August 12, Kingscote

August 23, Murray Bridge

Call Tinnitus SA on 1300 789 988 for more information and to book.



CONFERENCE PRESENTATION – ‘HEARING IN THE HILL’

In October 2010 David presented at the Silver Jubilee Hearing Conference in Broken Hill. This conference was administered by the hard working team at Broken Hill and District Hearing Resource Centre with funding from Human Services, NSW. David presented on Central Auditory Processing Disorder to the enthusiastic

audience who asked many questions about this area in formal question time and over lunch. There were also presentations on Tinnitus, Cochlear Implantation, Government Clinical Research initiatives, Meniere's Disease and Hearing Aids.

NEW HEARING TECHNOLOGY FOR TV AND TELEPHONE

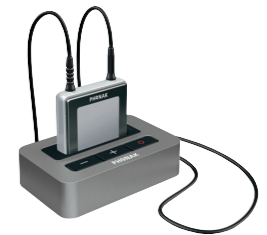
Hearing aid manufacturers constantly conduct research to improve their products and regularly introduce new features which aim to improve speech audibility and reduce the communication problems associated with hearing loss. Recently, there has been development in the application of ‘wireless’ technology to hearing aids.

‘Wireless’ simply refers to the transfer of information between two (or more) devices without the need for a connecting wire. Why is this relevant for hearing aids? First, wireless hearing aids can talk to each other, on the wearer's head. This allows the wearer to change the listening program or the volume in BOTH hearing aids by adjusting only ONE. Also, more sophisticated devices can use this information to ‘focus on’ sounds coming from a particular direction, e.g. a speaker behind you in the car. The second advantage is that there can be two-way communication between a hearing aid and a remote control. This means the wearer can adjust his hearing aid with the remote AND can also read out its battery status and other information. Finally, wireless communication allows the wearer to receive signals from the TV or telephone through both hearing aids, without other sounds intruding.

Clearer TV Sound

Plug a small box into your TV and wear an even smaller device around your neck and you can receive the TV sound, wirelessly, at a comfortable volume without disturbing others. If you have a DVA Gold Card (or White Card for hearing), you are eligible for a fully-subsidised TV device to suit your hearing aids. Other clients are welcome to purchase devices for themselves or as a gift. Ask your audiologist or call our office.

How CAN I HEAR BETTER ?



TV Link

At last! Hear Well on Your Mobile ‘Phone

Most mobile ‘phones have blue-tooth wireless capacity. This allows them to be ‘paired’ with a small listening device which communicates the telephone's signal directly to your hearing aids, making it much easier to hear in the car, on the street etc. Ask us for a demonstration.

Remote Controls for Hearing Aids

Many Unitron, Siemens and Phonak hearing aids can be adjusted with hand-held remote controls. We have a limited number of remotes available at discounted prices. Call for more information or ask your audiologist to demonstrate the advantages.

Over the years, we have loaned many CDs, DVDs, books, hearing instruments and other devices to our clients. Most people remember to return these so we can loan them again to someone else. Sometimes, however, loans aren't returned. If you happen to have one of our loan resources gathering dust at home, please drop it off to one of our offices so that we can return it to our loan library (no questions asked!).

WHY CAN'T MY CHILD LISTEN ?

AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER (APD)

APD & Listening Difficulties – Information sessions for Parents, Caregivers and Professionals – April to June 2011

Areas covered in this information session will include:

- how the ear and central auditory system works
- behaviours associated with APD
- how auditory processing is assessed and APD diagnosed
- strategies to assist you and your child at home and therapy options

Glenelg North Clinic
Wed May 4 (morning)

City Clinic
Thurs April 14 (mid-day)
Thurs June 2 (evening)

Check our website for dates in the second half of the year.

www.adelaidehearingconsultants.com.au

Limited Seats, Bookings Essential – \$40.00 per person, \$60 per couple (Tea & Coffee provided)