

Berard Auditory Integration Training Systems, Inc.

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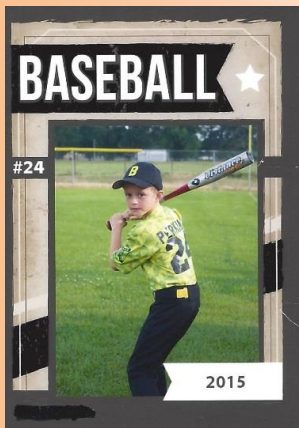


Retraining the Brain since 1993

Joel's AIT Experience

Joel is an 11-year old boy from Louisiana who had trouble understanding what his mother was saying. He would watch her lips when she spoke and she would repeat herself and speak very slowly in an effort to help him understand what she was saying. He would have to repeat himself just to make sure she felt he understood what she was saying. Joel also had a severe stuttering problem as well as a diagnosis of APD (Auditory Processing Disorder). Because of this, his mother, Nina, was looking for help. Even though they accepted Joel for who he was, she wanted a better life for her son.

She listened to a program on the internet called "Mother Cub's Web Radio Show" and heard Sarah Gewanter's interview about the AIT program. Nina contacted us to schedule the evaluation and, with Sarah's guidance, Joel started the In-Home program.



By his 6th session, Nina started noticing small changes. He started saying what he didn't like, which he had never done before. The stuttering was lessening, as well. His music teacher mentioned that she had noticed improvements, along with others who commented on his progress. His schoolwork improved dramatically.

Although he is still shy, and small for his age, he is now much more communicative; when he talks, people notice his specialness. He gets up to play with no problem. His mind is finally catching up to his body.

Sarah spoke with Joel on the phone and he said, "It's helping me. I like the way it sounds. It helps me understand what other people say". When asked what he would tell other's about AIT, he replied simply, "It helps you".

A Brief Explanation of Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)

By Sarah Gewanter, MSW, Director

Auditory Processing Disorder (APD), also referred to as Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD), often has hidden, or unrecognized, symptoms or issues. People with this disorder often look and act normal, but struggle with hearing distortions such as hearing differently in one ear than the other, hearing that sounds like it is "underwater", or trouble hearing in settings with competing background noises, to name a few. For them, some sounds come in loud and clear while other sounds are muffled or unclear. People with these issues sometimes don't even know they are hearing differently than others because they only know that they hear what they hear.

There are several key components to APD (or CAPD).

First, how clearly and accurately the auditory system receives and interprets the auditory stimulation of sounds, also known as receptive language.

Second, the vibration of sound frequencies stimulating neural pathways in the brain. If the process is not accurate, this can cause a delay in the brain's ability to interpret what is said and cause a backup in comprehension of auditory information.

Third, if neural pathways in the brain are not developed correctly or are travelling in the wrong direction, it may cause poor expressive language abilities.

Fortunately, the Auditory Integration Training Program, developed by Dr. Guy Berard, is actually helpful and successful in most cases of APD (CAPD). The AIT program, which is a safe, non-invasive listening program, can help by normalizing the hearing and the way the brain processes information.

To view a more detailed article on this topic, please visit our website at www.aithelps.com/APDarticle.

If you would like to be highlighted in an upcoming newsletter, send your AIT story to us at:
info@aithelps.com

Recommended reading:
"Like Sound Through Water: A Mother's Journey Through Auditory Processing Disorder" by Karen J. Foli

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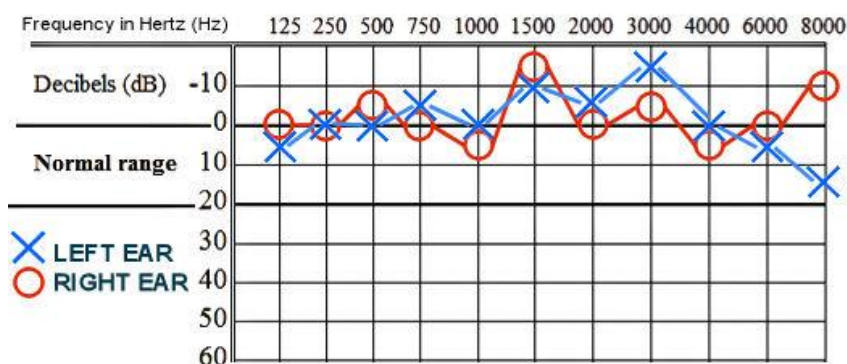
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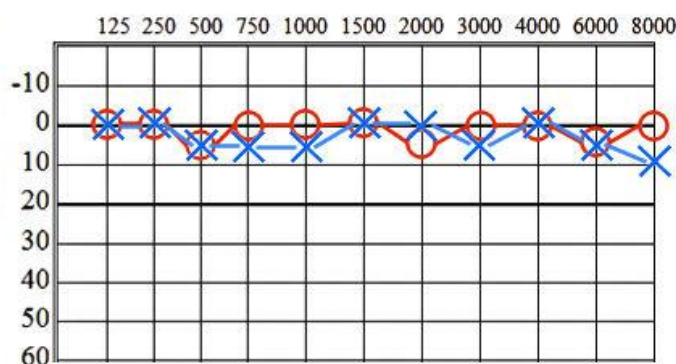
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“Retraining the Brain since 1993”

Before AIT



After AIT



Why is an Audiogram Important?

One of the first steps towards beginning the AIT program is the audiogram. Many times, we are asked, “Why is the audiogram necessary?” If you look at the “Before” audiogram above, you will notice the erratic rises and falls from one frequency (Hz) to the next. Now, you might think that, because the “Before AIT” graph shows the client to have hearing that measures better than the normal range in several frequencies that this is a good thing. But imagine if you had super-sensitive hearing ALL the time and you met someone whose voice just happened to fall in the 1500 Hz frequency range. It would seem like every word they said was shouted and even piercing to your senses. That wouldn’t be such a good thing.

Notice that the Right ear (red circles) show hyper-sensitivity at the 1500 Hz and 8000 Hz frequencies while the Left ear (blue X’s) has a slightly less pronounced peak at 1500 Hz and at 3000 Hz. As you can see “After AIT” the hearing is in the normal range and more similar in right and left ears.

The audiogram, when done correctly, identifies hyper-sensitivities or “distortions” found in so many of our clients. By reviewing this information, our AIT practitioner is able to determine which frequencies to filter out when developing the program for a specific client. We are also able to set filters for each ear separately allowing a highly individualized approach. If, in the event a client is unable to communicate with an audiologist, Berard AIT does have a protocol for non-testable people.

It is recommended that audiograms be done at various intervals since the program improves the way a client hears resulting in different equipment being required. These intervals are at the mid-point, 2-month, 6-month and 1 or 2-year interval.

To learn more about how an AIT practitioner uses the audiogram, call us to schedule a free phone consultation at 828-683-6900.

To learn more about how Berard AIT can help with
Auditory Processing Disorder

Call us at

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Mention this Newsletter and get
\$50.00 off the cost of the initial evaluation

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