Auditory Processing Disorder (APD or Central Auditory Processing Disorder CAPD) is a relatively new issue and still little known among people working with children. Parents and teachers more and more often share the impression that there are more and more children who do not respond to the words addressed to them, "as if they did not hear what is being said to them". When parents decide to undergo hearing tests, they are diagnosed with normal hearing (no hearing loss), but observe that their child still functions as a slightly hearing impaired person.

Auditory processing disorder is a term used in medicine (audiology), psychology, speech therapy and pedagogy to describe a set of symptoms resulting from the malfunctioning of higher auditory functions. Therefore, APDs do not constitute a separate disease entity, but are a set of symptoms resulting from disorders in the central part of the auditory system and occur despite the normal sensitivity of hearing.

The etiology of auditory processing disorders

Auditory processing disorders result from dysfunction in the central, nervous part of the auditory system and manifest themselves in improper processing of auditory stimuli (and not impaired hearing!). The brain of a person with CAPD (Central Auditory Processing Disorder) cannot properly recognize and interpret sounds, including speech sounds. Therefore, any type of hearing impairment or loss should be ruled out in advance. In children with APD, both sensorineural and conductive hearing are normal.
The reasons are not fully known. Nevertheless, risk factors are known that often appeared in children with CAPD. Belong to them:

- **in the prenatal period:** viral infections, cytomegaly, toxoplasmosis, intoxication with toxic substances (alcohol, tobacco, intoxicants, etc.);
- **hypoxia during childbirth** (also mechanical injuries), prematurity, high bilirubin levels;
- **in the postnatal period:** hearing impairments that are not rehabilitated properly; chronic exudative otitis media; adenoid hypertrophy; head injuries; over-stimulation with auditory stimuli;
- **genetic disposition,** in particular related to delayed or disturbed maturation of the central nervous system.

Dr. Senderski emphasizes that the increase in the number of children who have problems with auditory perception with proper hearing sensitivity is undoubtedly influenced by the rapid development of the information society in recent years. Excessive stimulation with visual and auditory stimuli (Internet, computer games, television) causes changes in the way of recording, assimilating and analyzing information reaching the child. Children have more and more difficulties with filtering and selecting stimuli, which in turn manifests itself in problems in the scope of attention. The limitation of time spent on direct conversations between children and their family and peers also contributes to this.