



The Able Kids Foundation™ is a nonprofit that partners with local, national, and international organizations and corporations to provide education, research, service and assistive devices that eliminate barriers and expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities

Removing Barriers



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Barriers are a part of everyone's life. They are challenging at best. Some cause us to change our course of action. Others can and should be removed. Webster's dictionary defines a barrier as "something immaterial that impedes or separates."

Unfortunately, children with disabilities may encounter barriers that separate them from experiencing all kinds of exciting and new opportunities. Wouldn't it be wonderful if barriers could be eliminated so

that all will be able to experience life's many opportunities?

Removing barriers is what the Able Kids Foundation is all about. Our mission is to focus on education, research and services to enrich lives and expand possibilities. Think of all the exciting opportunities you have experienced because someone cared enough to remove a barrier.

Auditory challenges are the **number 1** disability worldwide

In a research study 38% of children seen at the Able Kids Foundation failed at least one grade level

Millions of People Face Auditory Challenges

Auditory challenges are the number one disability worldwide that affects the lives of hundreds of millions of people. It affects them at home, work, school, hospitals, hotels - anywhere they need to communicate. Simple activities that people with normal auditory function take for granted, such as talking with friends, family, or co-workers on the telephone or cell phone in a busy listening situation, creates a 'listening chaos', which is challenging for many individuals. Each of the human senses have a special area of representation in the brainstem and the brain. The auditory system provides the most important of those sensory systems since it affords us with a means of verbal communication.

The majority of children and adults seen at the Central Auditory Diagnostic Center at the Able Kids Foundation are unable to understand or process speech information in an efficient manner in their daily lives. It is imperative that these children and adults are given solutions to aid the communication process.



Foundation Focus

Education



Auditory challenges affect millions of people and can cause:

- Reduced verbal classroom input
- Difficulty following spoken directions
- Potential delay in receptive and expressive language
- Auditory distractibility
- Social isolation and poor self esteem

The Able Kids Foundation will focus on sharing information on the alternatives and solutions for people with auditory challenges through educational outreach programs and partnerships with national organizations.

We will work with schools and other nonprofits to provide awareness, assistive technologies and management techniques which will eliminate barriers and assist students that are struggling.

Research

The potential need for central auditory processing (CAP) assessment and management is great. Persons most likely to benefit from our research are those who have normal peripheral hearing acuity yet report significant difficulties processing information in the presence of competing background noise. These persons number in the millions. Because central auditory processing disorders (CAPD) are associated with children and adults with other challenges such as traumatic brain injury, autism, learning disabilities, and ADD/ADHD, the incidence of CAPD is most likely underestimated.

For example, the incidence of autism is 1 in every 500 births, and 200 million people a year have some degree of head injury. Furthermore, 2 million children have been diagnosed with ADD/ADHD, and 1 in every 1600 individuals has multiple sclerosis. All of these population groups are at risk for CAPD.

Scientific research focusing on behavioral manifestations, incidence, etiologies, assessment and management of the central auditory nervous system function is an on-going program of the Able Kids Foundation, thanks to generous support from the Royal Arch Research Assistance, philanthropy of General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International.



Research brings results for individuals with auditory challenges

All of the following population groups are at risk for auditory issues:

Autism, ADD/ADHD, traumatic brain injury, hearing loss, speech and language delay, multiple sclerosis and other neurological disabilities

Service

The Able Kids Foundation delivers comprehensive assessment, management, education, and outreach that translates into life enhancing solutions.

The Central Auditory Diagnostic Center provides in-depth evaluations of central auditory nervous system function, diagnosis, individualized management programs, and assistive devices.

The in-service programs provide counseling and education to parents, professionals and schools about central auditory processing disorders.

The outreach, needs-based program, provides products and services for individuals with auditory challenges in schools, hospitals and public facilities based on their needs.



I AM ABLE CAMPAIGN



The Able Kids Foundation is launching an international "I AM ABLE™" campaign, established to enhance and maximize abilities for children and adults with disabilities.

The Foundation will introduce a royal blue bracelet with yellow ABLE™ embossed as a symbol of our collective dedication of focusing on *abilities*.

Through partnerships with corporations and other philanthropic organizations, the **I AM ABLE** campaign will act as a catalyst for fundraising campaigns, new member recruitment, corporate communication, and outreach.

It is our hope you will support those with disabilities in our global community by wearing an ABLE bracelet.

We believe by expanding opportunities – we can make a difference. Let's join together!

Generosity in Action

You have an opportunity to help us connect with others and provide what is needed to maximize abilities. The goal is lofty, but the need is great. With a simple program like this we can grow, one child, one person at a time and eliminate barriers, enable access to areas currently unattainable, and provide much needed focus on abilities rather than disabilities.



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