



ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE CENTRAL AUDITORY RESEARCH CENTER

April 2009 through June 2009

1. The Able Kids Foundation's Central Auditory Research Center has been investigating novel ways to enhance speech clarity in the presence of background noise. A variety of approaches to managing the effects of central auditory processing disorders (CAPD) have been described over the years. Among the most commonly discussed approaches are strategies that can be placed in two categories: those that target therapeutic remediation and those involving compensatory intervention. A third approach to management incorporates the use of technology.

One use of technology has involved the enhancement of auditory signals in busy listening environments using frequency-modulated (FM) auditory systems. These systems were first recommended for students with CAPD by Drs. Jack Willeford and Joan Burleigh in 1978. This recommendation was first included in a chapter on CAPD in:

Willeford, J., & Burleigh, J. (1978). Auditory perception in children with learning disabilities. In J. Katz (Ed.) *Handbook of clinical audiology* (2nd ed., pp. 410-425). Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins.

Further discussion of technology developed by Dr. Joan Burleigh and her colleagues for CAPD can be explored in:

Burleigh et al. (2002). Central Auditory Processing Disorders. In A. Bundy, S. Lane, and E. Murray (Eds.). *Sensory Integration: Theory and Practice* (2nd ed, pp. 141-165). Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company.

To date, a number of novel technologies and approaches for modifying speech input in real-time have been developed by Dr. Joan Burleigh and her staff. All of these techniques have been explored through various research endeavors. Currently, the development of novel ways of enhancing speech intelligibility is still at the forefront of the Able Kids Foundation.

2. This past quarter, the staff at the Central Auditory Diagnostic Center has evaluated children and adults from many different locations outside of Colorado. Clients have been seen from Idaho, Texas, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, California, Kansas, Utah, Arizona, New York, Nebraska, and New Jersey. We have spent a great deal of time establishing initial contact procedures, designing assessment tools, protocols and procedures for various age levels and communication needs, and developing management programs along with effective and successful management protocols for clients who travel great distances to be evaluated at this Center. We also continue to evaluate children and adults from other countries.



3. The Able Kids Foundation hosted the 3rd annual I AM ABLE™ Art Extravaganza! on April 15, 2009 to showcase student artists with disabilities. As in years past, this event was a heartwarming and

well-attended success! The art show was held at the Fort Collins Lincoln Center which is the premier concert and art center in Fort Collins, Colorado. Students from Poudre School District and Thompson Valley School District submitted a variety of art forms which were judged by two professional artists and a corporate representative. The Foundation hosted a special reception for student artists, family members, school personnel including school board members and teachers, community supporters, and friends of the Foundation. The art show and reception were supported financially by industry partners in the Fort Collins and Loveland communities. We have already been contacted by school personnel to place this event on the school calendar for 2010. We are delighted that each year this event has greater student participation and is growing in its impact on students, their families, and the communities at large. The Able Kids Foundation believes that it is a privilege to host an event for the community that showcases the abilities of young people who should be recognized and rewarded.

4. Able Kids Foundation's market and search engine optimization strategic plan has come to partial fruition by creating several avenues for building new website architecture around main sector niches. Our intent is to craft a web presence strategy which will allow the Foundation to best serve our worldwide clients. This interconnecting strategy can be achieved by creating an information sharing community that disseminates auditory research studies and their results along with successful management and technological solutions.

To that end, a member of the Foundation staff has created three new websites built around our main sector focus of auditory research. The Foundation's main website is www.ablekidsfoundation.org which is a dynamic site that is continuing to expand. Much has been accomplished on this core site which includes designing the expansion branches to allow information sharing between other sites. Upon completion of each expansion branch, we will launch this site to the internet for general public benefit. Chapters are invited to connect with this site.

Our first step of website optimization and the crafting of key website architecture targeted central auditory processing research supported through RARA and technological solutions. Preliminary pages for www.centralauditoryprocessingburleigh.com were launched April 29, 2009. The title web page is Central Auditory Diagnostic Center.

5. Requests for information regarding the Central Auditory Research and Diagnostic Centers and the outreach program continue to grow. This past quarter we have delivered over 2500 brochures to various sites for general distribution along with a number of DVDs. In addition to hard copies of brochures, requests are made weekly for chapters and articles that we have written on CAPD in children and adults. This past quarter we had a request for more information from a member of the Grand Chapter's Educational Committee in South Australia.

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CEO and Co-Founder

July 1, 2009