

PRESS RELEASE  
*For Immediate Release*

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## **Is Your Child Struggling in School?** *The Experts at Mill Neck Audiology Can Help*

As the school year progresses, kids are kept busy with in-class assignments, homework and extracurricular activities and some can become overwhelmed. Does your child appear to be struggling more than his/her peers? Did he/she fail a school hearing screening? If so, consider a visit to the Mildred and Frank Feinberg Community Center for Hearing Health at Mill Neck Audiology. The experts at the center can determine if your child has a common condition known as Central Auditory Processing (CAP) – and will help guide him/her on a path of better learning.

Children are often diagnosed with CAP, a condition in which they may have normal hearing and intelligence, but are unable to understand, identify or differentiate between sounds. “It’s almost a ‘disconnect’ from what enters the ear to what gets interpreted by the brain,” says Tanya Linzalone, Director of Mill Neck Audiology. Without proper coping skills, complex commands may be too much for a child to handle. An example: A parent asks a child to get an item from the car, located on the backseat, on the passenger side and the child may not be able to get the order straight.

The condition is sometimes noticeable when children are beginning pre-reading skills, as this is a multi-step process. Despite early learning difficulties, a proper CAP diagnosis can’t usually be made until age eight, when there are more academic demands. However, many parents call Mill Neck when they suspect their four or five year old may have CAP issues. It is important for them to remember, though, that maturity also plays a role in the diagnosis. If around age eight the child is still struggling and not able to follow along in class, Linzalone recommends talking with the teacher, who may suggest bringing the child in for testing.

When visiting Mill Neck Audiology for a CAP test, audiologists at the center first perform a hearing exam to establish whether a child has normal hearing before moving on to further testing, which normally takes about 45 minutes to an hour and a half. After the tests are evaluated, a diagnosis is made within a week, and a report is given to the parent, child’s pediatrician and school, with appropriate

accommodations suggested. One option is speech therapy, which helps children learn to cope with the problem and boosts their auditory memory, increasing their chances for successful learning.

Interestingly, many adults suffer from CAP as well, although they have never been formally diagnosed. Linzalone says, “We see many adults who have been struggling with the condition for years. As a result, it has affected their self-esteem, but receiving a diagnosis helps many of them, as it does children. When they realize what the problem is, only then can they take the necessary steps to address it.”

Part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, the Mildred and Frank Feinberg Community Center for Hearing Health at Mill Neck Audiology features separate, state-of-the-art adult and pediatric testing areas, an assistive listening display and an observation room with a parent observation area. The Center also dispenses hearing aids, distributes assistive listening devices and provides amplification adjustments. If you are or if someone you know is experiencing hearing difficulties, call the experts at Mill Neck Audiology at (516) 628-4258.

In addition to Mill Neck Audiology, the Mill Neck Family of Organizations includes Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, established in 1951 to help Deaf children unlock their potential through quality education, Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Center, Mill Neck Foundation, Inc., Mill Neck Services for Deaf Adults and Mill Neck Interpreter Service. For more information about any of these programs, please call (516) 922-4100 or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.

*Photo caption:*

An evaluation at Mill Neck Audiology can determine if your child has a common condition known as Central Auditory Processing (CAP).

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