

Emerge



A Child's Place

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Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy

Chapel Hill Office

205 Sage Rd, Ste 203
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Phone: (919) 928-0204
Fax: (919) 928-9423

Durham Office

2919 Colony Rd
Durham, NC 27705
Phone: (919) 489-7333
Fax: (919) 489-0504

Serving children from birth
to 14 years old

Using therapy to improve
conditions such as:

Delayed Speech
Dyspraxia
Speech Impairments
Non-communicative Speech
Oral/Verbal Apraxia
Language Disorders
Feeding Difficulties
Autism/Asperger's/PDD
Developmental Delay
Cerebral Palsy
Sensory Integration
Disorders
Sensory Modulation
Disorders
Handwriting Impairments
Fine & Gross Motor Delays

A Private, Independent
Provider

www.EmergeAChildsPlace.com



Bonnie Hacker, OT
Founder / Director

Auditory Defensiveness Interferes with Happiness

The term "auditory defensiveness" refers to a condition of apparently unusual negative behavioral responses such as withdrawal or protest to sounds that are generally considered inoffensive. Professionals often think of auditory defensiveness as a component of attention deficit disorder, autism, and fragile X. However, auditory defensiveness commonly exists in children without any formal diagnosis. In isolation, or even when experienced in combination with tactile defensiveness, the challenge is often not fully debilitating, and some professionals are therefore not accustomed to offering professional help for auditory defensiveness as an isolated diagnosis. However, **auditory defensiveness in children is correlated with social withdrawal, general anxiety, and separation distress** (Goldsmith H, et al. A population-based twin study of parentally reported tactile and auditory defensiveness in young children. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*. 2006 June; 34(3): 393-407.). If auditory defensiveness rises to a level that parents bring it to the attention of a professional, it may be appropriate to offer those parents a conversation with a pediatric therapist at Emerge - A Child's Place. Safe and pleasant therapeutic approaches may increase the happiness of children and their families long-term.



The classic sign of auditory defensiveness is children covering their ears in response to noises that do not bother other children. Some over-responsiveness escalates to crying or tantrums. Other symptoms include:

- Have trouble in loud environments
- Dislike devices such as the vacuum, sink disposal, hair dryers, etc. The noises most likely to be objectionable to these children are loud low frequency noises such as blenders and loud high pitched noises such as energetic sneezes.
- Become easily upset at or following loud events
- Avoidance of loud environments (parties, movies, etc.)
- Behavior problems, language difficulties, and scholastic challenges can result

Auditory defensiveness in isolation does not signal a learning disability. These children are just as likely to be academically gifted as any others. However, defensive responses to noises made by other children in class, cafeteria noises, or intercom announcements can result in scholastic challenges. These children often perform better in smaller classrooms, and strategic seating arrangements can give them an advantage.

Emerge - A Child's Place can help children with auditory defensiveness in a number of ways. Sensory integration therapies may be able to improve how children process the noises they find objectionable. Therapeutic Listening[®], a program that involves listening to music specially designed to **modulate how the brain processes sensory information**, has helped many children with auditory defensiveness. In addition, Emerge therapists can teach parents a number of coping strategies and environmental adjustment strategies for use at home and school. Dealing with concerns like auditory defensiveness while children are young can give them advantages upon which they can build for life.

**Please tell parents about Emerge - A Child's Place
Believing in a Child's Potential to Flourish**



Affordable Care at Emerge - A Child's Place

Many parents find that insurance coverage for pediatric occupational or speech therapy is often limited. In these cases, Emerge has even more to offer in addition to uncompromising quality of care and excellent facilities. Even though the quality of care at Emerge is at the highest levels, you will find the fees at Emerge to be the most affordable.