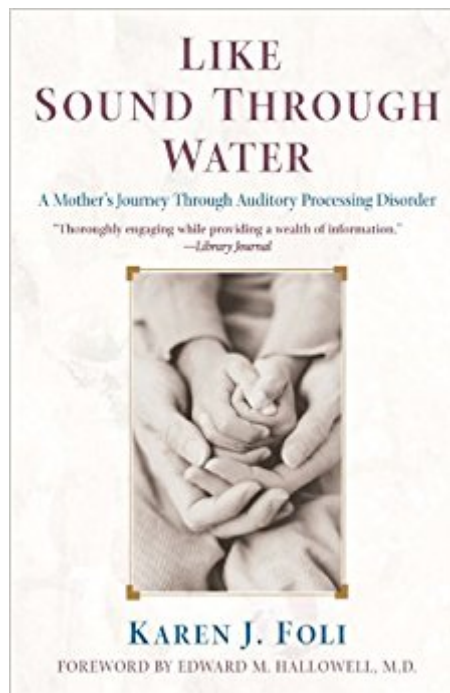




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# Like Sound Through Water: A Mother's Journey Through Auditory Processing Disorder



## Synopsis

A mother knows when something is wrong with her child. If the problem is physical, she takes the child to a doctor. But if the problem is a misunderstanding of her child's mind, where does she turn for help? This is Ben's story. He was a happy, healthy boy -- a mother's dream come true. Yet by the age of three, Ben's development was significantly delayed: He couldn't make sense of the simplest phrases, and he still hadn't started talking. When Karen Foli finally took her son, Ben, to a speech and hearing clinic, she was told that he was "probably retarded and perhaps autistic." But Karen knew that Ben was highly perceptive, even frustrated by his inability to communicate. Trusting her "mother's intuition," Karen set out on a journey to learn the truth about her son's condition....and what she found was APD. A person with auditory processing disorder receives jumbled and distorted sounds. But the ability to hear is usually normal. Even though it affects millions of Americans, APD can be difficult to diagnose and challenging to treat. Through years of research, and personal interviews, Karen Foli learned everything she needed to know about APD in order to help her son achieve the greatest gift of all: communication. Like Sound Through Water is her story -- winning, inspiring, and true.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) occurs when the brain cannot process or understand correctly the sounds the ears hear, even though the ears might be functioning properly. It is rarely recognized, often misdiagnosed, and poorly understood, yet the effects can be devastating. Pocket

is simultaneously releasing two complementary texts on the subject that are definitely worth some notice. Foli's *Like Sound Through Water* is a mother's account of her family's struggle with APD in her oldest son, Ben. Her account reads like a novel and is thoroughly engaging while providing a wealth of information. Foli clearly shows the pain misdiagnosis and clinical inaccuracies can cause. While finally obtaining a correct diagnosis brought some relief, Foli shows that the battle for normalcy had only begun. This is mostly a success story with an upbeat ending. The resource section in the back is a bonus. Bellis's *When the Brain Can't Hear* is the first APD sourcebook written specifically for lay readers. Bellis, the author of an important text on APD for professionals (*Assessment and Management of Central Auditory Processing Disorders in the Educational Setting from Science to Practice*), herself suffers from APD as the result of a car accident. Her text is naturally more clinical in nature but still quite readable. It covers the many subtypes of APD and their manifestations, diagnosis and testing, treatment options, and coping techniques. The ample glossary adds to the book's accessibility. Either of these texts would be appropriate additions to most collections, but they are best purchased together. The diagnosis of APD is seen more frequently, and with no other lay texts on the subject available, these books are absolutely essential. KellyJo Houtz Griffin, Eatonville, WA Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In the acknowledgments Foli thanks Teri J. Bellis, whose *When the Brain Can't Hear* [BKL F 1 02] her book complements. Foli tells a loving story, but the first half of it, about events before her son, Ben, was diagnosed with auditory processing disorder (APD), is full of frustration. Although a nurse with a Ph.D. in communication, she didn't suspect what the problem was, for neither she nor her psychiatrist husband, John, had heard of APD. Preschool, clinical, and school tests did little to clarify Ben's difficulties or indicate solutions. Both parents felt guilty for what they might have done to help Ben and how their intense care for him might have inhibited their younger son Pete's development. Lacking the proper diagnosis, they and various tutors devoted much time and effort at home and school to helping Ben. After the APD diagnosis, the therapeutic and psychological problems were much more solvable. Foli concludes the practical, heartwarming book with the observation that each APD child is different and must be treated as an individual. William Beatty Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I liked this book well enough. It is one woman's account of finding out why her son had difficulties.

Thankfully, it didn't take so long for my daughter, and she is milder than this lady's son. While there are some helpful ideas and resources in this book, it isn't a good guide for people looking for guidance. I've found The Sound of Hope to be very useful. I've also used Earobics. I'm not sure that has helped my daughter though. I found the thing that helped my daughter the most was going to a very good Educational Psychologist who specializes in working with deaf and hard of hearing children. She said that it is like my daughter is hard of hearing even though she can hear well. Anyway, all that is besides the point. Like Sound Through Water was ok. I don't think it needed to be nearly as long. And her comparing her journey to being in a boat in purple or blue water was jarring. Perhaps a better lead into what the metaphor was about would have made the transition into the metaphor each time would have been less jarring, but really, even though she may have thought of the metaphor while going through all that, it really was unnecessary as well and a better one may have fit better. I did find on the whole the book was a bit difficult to read. It didn't flow well, and I felt it was rather a bit factual and that there wasn't an emotional draw through the book, so I finished it feeling like I really shouldn't have bothered. I felt like I could have gotten as much from a forum online and with a lot less time and more perspectives presented. No offense, but I really feel like this is a title that can be skipped. I did not feel that she went on too long about how far she had to drive to her daughter's appointments as another reviewer said. But perhaps that's because I drive 40 min each way for appointments for me and her four times a week and am actually quite used to it. Oh, also, the author felt the Montessori school her son attended was not a good choice for him. My daughter attends a Montessori school, and things are going ok, not perfect by any means, but we feel this is a very good environment for her. She is in lower elementary. Just FYI.

Going through the same kind of thing and could relate so very much. I loved the book and would recommend it to anyone on the journey.

I was very disappointed in the undertone of this book regarding Autism and any other diagnosis other than APD. Karen's knowledge of Autism, ASD, DSI, and special needs is very limited to what her husband has told her and very very inaccurate. She makes comments such as that a child with Autism wouldn't know that a person was alive and a rock wasn't. She also implies more than once that children with Autism/ASD have no ability to show affection. Inaccurate and insensitive comments like these show how little she looked into her son's problems and the details of different issues her son may or may not have had. She ignores the fact her son has sensory issues and many delays other than APD and acts as though she couldn't accept her child if he did have any

sort of disability. She even seemed cold when talking about other children with physical disabilities as if she felt sorry for them and she wasn't in special needs boat. I didn't like the book overall. I have a son with APD and I wouldn't recommend it. Many kids with APD (and most with Autism who also have APD/CAPD) have numerous issues to deal with. If your child has anything more than classic, simple APD, you'll most likely get very discouraged at her disregard for any other diagnosis, delay or disability. Don't waste your money thinking you can connect with another Mom here. Spend your money on something that may actually help your child's APD.

This is a great book for parents looking for answers or having a new diagnosis of APD (Auditory Processing Disorder) which affects many children. Because we cannot see it and cannot experience what the child is experiencing, we may not realize there is an problem that can be remedied. Don't wait until frustration overtakes you and your child.

Had to read this book for my Junior college class and it was an amazing read. I could hardly put it down. Education, Child Development majors, etc. Would love this read.

Easy read. Easy to understand. Great personal experience.

I liked the book but it goes to much on the personal experience without sharing helpful techniques and recommendations. Still is very good to read if you are beginning to learn about APD.

I personally found this book to be very helpful in terms of the information provided about APD as well as information on products that could be helpful for treatment of the condition. For me personally it was a very therapeutic journey because being a mother of a child with APD, I was able to identify with practically all of the experiences detailed by the author. Definately a must for parents or anyone who has a child with APD close to them.

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