**Auditory Processing**: refers to how the brain perceives and interprets sound information. Several skills determine auditory processing ability- or listening success. They develop in a hierarchy, but all work together and are essential for daily listening.

**Step 1: Auditory Awareness**

* *Auditory Awareness*: the ability to detect sound
* *Sound Localization*: the ability to locate the sound source
* *Auditory Attention/Auditory Figure Ground*: the ability to attend to important auditory information including attending in the midst of competing background noise

**Step 2: Auditory Discrimination**

* *Of environmental Sounds*: the ability to detect differences between sounds in the environment
* *Of Suprasegmentals*: the ability to detect differences in non-phoneme aspects of speech including rate, intensity, duration, pitch, and overall prosody
* *Of Segmentals*: the ability to detect differences between specific speech sounds

**Step 3: Auditory Identification**

* *Auditory Identification* (Auditory Association): the ability to attach meaning to sounds and speech
* *Auditory Feedback/Self-Monitoring*: the ability to change speech production based on information you get from hearing yourself speak
* *Phonological Awareness* (Auditory Analysis): the ability to identify, blend, segment, and manipulate oral language structure

**Step 4: Auditory Comprehension**

* *Auditory Comprehension*: the ability to understand longer auditory messages, including engaging in conversation, following directions, and understanding stories
* *Auditory Closure*: the ability to make sense of auditory messages when a piece of auditory information is missing; filling in the blanks
* *Auditory Memory*: the ability to retain auditory information both immediately and after a delay
* *Linguistic Auditory Processing*: the ability to interpret, retain, organize, and manipulate spoken language for higher level learning and communication