



# Position Statement

## Background

Recently audiologists have been approached by parents seeking advice on the efficacy of Auditory Integration Training in the treatment of persons with autism and other individuals with presumed auditory processing problems including those with dyslexia, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, and bipolar disorder. Third party insurance carriers also have a need to know whether these services should be covered under their policies. Because of the reported relative successes achieved by this technique, some parents and families of children with various types of disabilities are looking to Auditory Integration Training as a means of recovery for children with severe communication-auditory processing disorders. In spite of popular claims, there have been no scientific studies indicating that this technique significantly improves listening ability, language, or learning ability. Because of the importance of this matter to consumers of services provided by audiologists, the Executive Committee was asked to determine the Academy's official position on Auditory Integration Training. After much discussion, the following position statement was adopted by the Executive Committee on May 25, 1993.

## Auditory Integration Training

### Whereas:

1. There has been recent interest in the treatment of autism through a technique of auditory training called "Auditory Integration Training" developed by Guy Berard. Many parents of autistic children are extremely hopeful, through claims of success of the technique, that their child will experience a cure.
2. This treatment is also claimed to be successful with people who have dyslexia, learning disabilities, pervasive developmental delays, attention deficit disorder, and bipolar disorders.
3. Auditory Integrative Training is completed in ten hours over a ten day period by listening to filtered, electronically modulated music. Audiometric testing (sometimes called an audiotest) is conducted prior to and during this treatment. Cost of treatment is usually \$1000 or more.
4. Some authors attribute this emerging treatment in auditory training to audiologists, and audiologists are currently involved in provision of this treatment.
5. There are no published results of peer reviewed studies using controlled populations and using scientific methods that demonstrated whether this auditory training program provides significant improvement in any dimension for any population.

**Be it resolved** that The American Academy of Audiology believes Auditory Integration Training (by any name) to be entirely investigational. The Academy believes that prospective, systematic research of this technique is needed to demonstrate its efficacy. Pursuant to Principle 5 of the Code of Ethics, the Academy believes that the experimental status of this techniques must be clearly explained to consumers before they are entered in to treatment.

### Call For Nominations

*Deadline September 1, 1993*

Nominations for the offices of Prescient-Elect and Member-At-Large of the American Academy of Audiology for Terms beginning in July, 1994, can be made by members of the Academy. All nominations from the membership will be considered by the Nominations Committee. Please submit nominations by September 1, 1993, to:

Linda Hood, Chair, Nominations Committee  
 American Academy of Audiology  
 1735 North Lynn Street, Suite 950  
 Arlington, VA 22209-2022