

Developmental Language Disorder - Primary school child


Information for parents



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It is thought that DLD affects seven per cent of children and young people in the general population. This is more than Autism, however, DLD is not as widely known about.

What is DLD?

DLD stands for Developmental Language Disorder. Having DLD means that you have significant ongoing difficulties understanding and/ or using spoken language.

There is no known cause of DLD which can make it hard to explain. DLD is not caused by emotional difficulties or limited exposure to language.

A young person with DLD may also have other difficulties such as ADHD, Dyslexia and/ or speech sound difficulties.

DLD is not caused by other medical conditions such as hearing loss, physical impairment, Autism, severe learning difficulties or brain injuries. However, children and young people with these difficulties may also have a Language Disorder.

What signs may a child or young person with DLD show?

Difficulty understanding instructions and information.

Difficulty thinking flexibly.

Difficulty remembering what has been said.

Difficulty understanding puns, idioms, jokes, sarcasm, slang and non-literal language - for example, "keep an eye on it."

Limited vocabulary or difficulties finding words.

Difficulty understanding and managing emotions.

Difficulty telling narratives/ stories.

How will this affect my child or young person?

- DLD is a long-term condition that can have a big impact on a child's learning and achievement at school.
- Children with DLD are at risk of reading difficulties when they reach school age.
- Sometimes DLD can affect children's social interaction skills and their ability to make and keep friends.
- Children with DLD usually learn and understand better through visual and/ or practical methods rather than verbal methods – for example, they may understand a story better if they watched it being acted out.

Remember:

Language difficulties may also be the result of emotional difficulties such as low self-esteem or anxiety or behavioral difficulties such as acting out in class.

How can I support my child or young person at home?

- Get your child's attention - say their name before asking questions or giving instruction so they know they have to listen.
- Make sure they can see your face to support their attention and listening.
- Use simple language and repeat if necessary to support memory and provide as many opportunities for them to hear, see and use words.
- Talk calmly and slowly to support their ability to process words and give them more time to respond to help them process information.
- Provide a picture or use gestures and symbols to represent new words or concepts to support their understanding visually.



- Encourage your child or young person to communicate with you including the use of gestures, pointing and facial expressions.
- Check they have understood instructions or new information.
- Help them learn skills to join in with other children - for example, playing games at home to support turn taking and listening to others.



For more information go to:

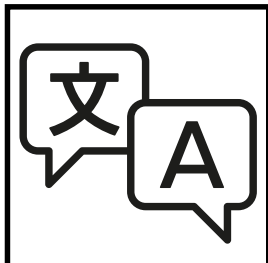
<https://www.nhsaaa.net/services/services-a-z/allied-health-professionals-ahps/speech-and-language-therapy/>

Other useful websites:

<https://radld.org/about/dld/>

<https://www.naplic.org.uk/dld/>

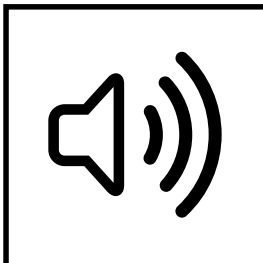
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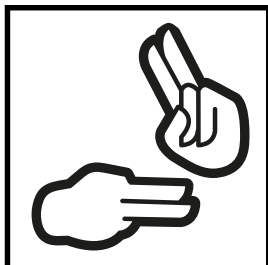
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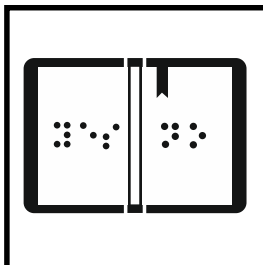
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