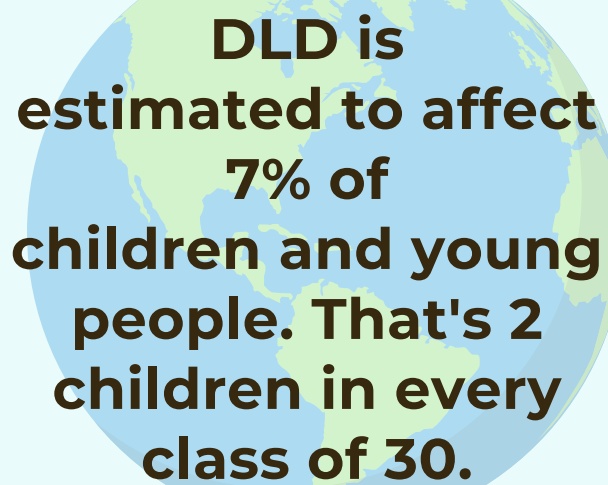


DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER



DLD is estimated to affect 7% of children and young people. That's 2 children in every class of 30.

Remember!

Language difficulties may also present as behaviour issues such as anxiety or misbehaving in class due to not understanding



Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) means that you have significant, on-going difficulties understanding and/or using spoken language, in all the languages you use.



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



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 young person with DLD show?

- They may not talk as much and find it difficult to express themselves verbally.
- Their language may sound immature for their age.
- They may struggle to find words or to use varied vocabulary.
- They may not understand, or remember, what has been said.
- Older children may have difficulties reading and using written language
- DLD looks different in each individual child. The child's specific difficulties can also change as they get older and need to develop more complex skills.

How will this impact my child?

- DLD is a **long term condition** that can have a big impact on a child/young person'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 often learn and understand better through **visual and /or practical methods**, rather than verbal methods. For example they would understand a story better if they watched it being acted out and drew it rather than being told verbally.

How can you support your child?

- **Get your child's attention** – say their name before you want them to listen eg. “Kate (then give your instruction/comment)”
- **Ensure your child can see your face** to support their attention and listening, getting down to your child's level can also help.
- **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
- **Give your child more time to respond** to help them process information
- **Use symbols** – provide a picture and/or use gestures to represent new words or concepts to support their understanding visually. Visual timetables can help structure their day.
- **Encourage your child to communicate with you however they can**, accept gesture, pointing, facial expression. Remember, communication is more than just talking!
- **Check they have understood** instructions or new information. You can do this by asking them to repeat back to you what you have told them.
- **Help them learn skills to join in with other children.** For example, playing games at home to support turn taking and listening to others.
- **Give specific instructions** – e.g. “put X in the big bowl”
- **Set up 'role play' opportunities** to practise using language in different contexts, e.g. set up a 'shop' where the child has to practise remembering what they need to ask for and asking for the right thing or a 'café' where the child might practise asking for/ordering their own meal.

Useful Resources:

- www.radld.org - **Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder.** Lots of resources including videos explaining more about DLD. Share with family and friends what Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) means and show them the RADLD video.
- **[DLD and me](#)** - DLD information and self-advocacy resources for children and families with DLD.
- www.afasic.org.uk - **Afasic.** Support and information for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs and their families.
- There are also support groups for people with DLD and their parents/carers on Facebook.