

## Supporting children with DLD

Speech and Language Therapists will work together with parents and their schools to work out the best ways to support children with DLD. The SLT can suggest strategies and resources to use at home and at school. As children with DLD get a bit older they will work out which strategies work best for them and when they need to ask for help. No matter what age the child is, those around them need to be aware of and use the strategies that work best. It is important to think about the child's learning style and also their social and emotional wellbeing as well as their particular difficulties with language. As demands at school increase, children may need more help from those around them. For example, transition from primary school to secondary school is an important stage when relevant supports and strategies need to be considered.

### Further Information

General strategies to support children with DLD can be found on:

<http://www.asl.scot.nhs.uk/Resources/ResourceSheets/Pages/Communication.aspx> under the headings of understanding language and expressive language.

### Other useful websites include:

[www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk) – Information for parents and professionals about children's speech, language and communication needs.

[www.youtube.com/user/RALLIcampaign](http://www.youtube.com/user/RALLIcampaign) - videos by professionals, children and their families related to DLD. Search for the 'RADLD Campaign' for further information.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/videoican/> - videos from children's communication charity ICAN focusing on different aspects of children's speech, language and communication.

# Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)



## Information for Parents and Schools

### What is Developmental Language Disorder?

Children with **Developmental Language Disorder** have difficulties with language (talking and understanding) that make communication and learning more challenging. These difficulties often continue into school age and adulthood. Around two children in every primary school class have DLD and it is more common in boys than girls. Speech and Language Therapists, school staff and families working together can make a real difference for children with DLD.

A Speech and Language Therapist will use a combination of formal assessment, observations and professional judgement to decide if a child has DLD.


### Why do some children have DLD?

We don't yet know why some children have DLD. Parents sometimes worry that their child has DLD because of something they have or have not done. There is no evidence that this is the case. DLD does, however, often run in families and therefore it is likely that genes play an important part in DLD. Currently there is no medical test to diagnose DLD.

Children who speak more than one language may also have DLD. This will affect all the languages that they speak or understand. DLD is not caused by learning and using more than one language.

# What you might notice

DLD looks different in all children. You might notice some of the following:



I don't always understand you when you are talking so it can be hard to have a conversation.

I find it hard to keep up with what my friends are chatting about.

I find it hard to put words together to make sentences, even though I have good ideas.

I sometimes get really angry when we don't understand each other.

Some words are tricky for me to say.

I talk lots and lots but my words and sentences are often muddled.

I need lots of help to learn and remember new words.

I have to work really hard to understand. This is tiring so I might zone out.

Sometimes I get into trouble because I forget what I am supposed to do

Reading and writing are difficult for me.