

## Contact

If you have any questions, please talk with your Speech and Language Therapist or call a member of the team:

Early years:

School-aged:

For further information, search DLD on these websites:

AFASIC

[www.afasic.org.uk](http://www.afasic.org.uk)

ICAN

[www.ican.org.uk](http://www.ican.org.uk)

Raising Awareness of DLD (RADLD)

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/radld.page/>

## Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a question, compliment, comment or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or [whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net](mailto:whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net)

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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# Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

## Information for parents/carers



## What is DLD?

Children and young people with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) have significant difficulties understanding and using spoken language.

A child or young person can be described as having DLD if their language difficulties:

- are having a significant impact on everyday life and progress in nursery/school
- are continuing despite support at home and nursery/school
- are likely to be longer-term

There is no known cause of DLD. However we know that it is not caused by:

- Parenting style
- Being bilingual
- Emotional difficulties
- Other medical conditions, such as hearing loss, Autism or severe learning difficulties

Children and young people with DLD may have other conditions such as ADHD or Dyslexia

## How might this affect my child?

Every child and young person with DLD is different. Children's needs will also change as they get older. However these are some of the things you may see in your child:

- Difficulty expressing themselves verbally, even though they have the ideas
- Language may sound immature for their age
- They may struggle to find words or use a varied vocabulary
- Sentences may sound muddled and be difficult to understand
- They may have difficulty understanding or remembering what is said to them
- Some children may have difficulty playing/talking with other children or making and maintaining friendships
- They might find it difficult to listen and to concentrate on activities or in the classroom

Older children may have difficulties with:

- reading and using written language
- understanding puns, jokes, idioms, slang and non-literal language
- thinking flexibly

## What can we do to help?

Most children just 'pick up' language from hearing it around them. Children and young people with DLD find this more difficult. They can do well academically and socially if they have the right support in place.

Children and young people with DLD often find it easier **to see** and to be **shown** what to do and how to do something rather than just being told or hearing the information.

- Use gesture or Makaton signs at the same time as saying the word
- Use pictures or symbols to help your child understand what they are being told
- Make a visual timetable (drawings, photos or symbols) to help your child understand what will happen throughout the day

It is also important to continue to:

- Accept and respond to all your child's different ways they use to communicate with you – gestures, pointing, looking, and facial expressions.
- Use simple language to label or describe things you do together
- Give your child more time to listen, understand you and to respond