



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER (DLD)

Advice sheet for parents and teachers

Top facts...

1. DLD can impact on a child's ability to:
 - Talk in sentences
 - Understand instructions
 - Find the right words
 - Tell stories
 - Learn new vocabulary
2. DLD is estimated to impact 1 in 13 children in the UK
3. Early support makes a **BIG** difference



Good to know...

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is a **lifelong, neurodevelopmental difference** that affects how a person understands and uses language. It is not caused by lack of intelligence, hearing problems, or limited experience, the **brain processes language differently**.

DLD can affect speaking, listening, reading, and writing, with impacts that vary widely between individuals, including academic, self esteem and social relationships. With the right support, people with DLD can thrive and express themselves fully.



"Some moments (are) more of a struggle"
An adult with DLD describing how their language varies across the day and situations

"Something clicked" An adult with DLD describing the moment she understood



Top tips...

- Get to know the unique language profile of **strengths** and **needs** for each child
- Use **simple language**, keep instructions **clear**
- **Repetition** is key
- Encourage your child to ask for **help**. This will be a key strategy as they develop
- **Read** together, literacy builds vocabulary and comprehension
- Use **visuals** (pictures and gestures) to support your language
- Allow extra **time** to respond
- Break tasks into smaller **chunks**
- Pre-teach **vocabulary**
- Focus on building **self awareness** and **self esteem**

Resources...

1. Learn more at: www.radld.org (Raising Awareness of DLD)

2. Books for children: "DLD why can't you see me?" & "Dan and the paper airplane"

