

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

Leaflet for parents



What is it?



- DLD stands for Developmental Language Disorder
- With children who have DLD, they have language difficulties such as:
 - Understanding what is said to them
 - Expressing themselves in words
 - These difficulties continue through nursery and into school
- DLD affects all spoken languages (not just English)
- It is not caused by speaking another language

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What are the signs of DLD?

Your child may not:

- Talk very much
- Use fewer words than other children their age
- Understand what you say to them
- Be able to follow an instruction
- Read and write as well as other children their age
- Every child with DLD is different and unique. What your child finds difficult may change as they get older
- DLD can occur alongside other difficulties (e.g. ADHD, Dyslexia and/ or speech sound difficulties)
- We do not know what causes DLD. But we do know that a child is more likely to have DLD if someone in their family does



How does DLD affect children?

- DLD can affect learning and friendships
- Children with DLD learn better visually (e.g. pictures, diagrams) and practically (e.g. role-playing a lesson)
- DLD does not go away but there are lots of ways that parents and teachers can help a child with their understanding and talking
- Children with DLD often respond very well to support for their talking and learning

How to support your child at home?

- Make sure your child is looking at you and listening before giving instructions
- Use simple language and repeat new words a lot
- Talk slowly
- Pause to give your child time to respond
- Use pictures and gestures when you talk with them
- Remember that children also communicate with their body language, facial expressions, pointing and how they say things
- Play games at home to teach your child turn taking, teamwork, listening and sharing



Speech and Language Therapy Service in Newham

- Children with DLD in Newham may get support from the Speech and Language Therapy Service in their school
- Nursery age children can be seen by the Early Years Team in clinic
- Some children with DLD receive support from Nelson Primary School Resource Provision

Who to speak to if you have concerns

- Your child's class teacher or
- SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator)
- Your child's GP
- Newham Speech and Language Therapy Service. Referrals are accepted from parents/carers, schools and GPs

Where to find more information

- **Afasic** www.afasic.org.uk
- **Raising Awareness Developmental Language Disorder (RADLD)** <https://radld.org/>
- **Talking Point** <https://talkingpoint.org.uk/>
- **ICAN** <https://www.ican.org.uk/>