

# Developmental Language Disorder Awareness Day – 15th October 2021

- DLD is a lifelong condition where children have difficulties understanding and/or using spoken language
- Affects 7.5% of children – approximately 2 children in every classroom
- Affects and persists into adulthood
- No obvious cause for difficulties

What is Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)?

What are the features of DLD?

Difficulty with understanding of language, e.g:

- Following more complex instructions and explanations
- Finding it hard to learn new key words

Difficulty with using spoken language, e.g.

- More limited vocabulary than peers
- Word choice errors
- Speaking using simple sentences / short phrases

This can be misinterpreted as: poor behaviour, poor listening, inattention

## Interview with a Year 9 student with DLD in Brent

What do you understand DLD as?

I don't really know much about it. I haven't been diagnosed with it for very long. I do know that I **don't understand things very well**. Basic instructions to someone else could be really hard for me... my brain works a lot slower than other kids in my class **so it takes longer for me** to figure out a question than it takes a kid 5 seconds to figure out.

If a kid with DLD asks for help and they say "yeah I understand it", **ask them if they properly understand it** cos lots of kids with DLD just say "yeah" even if they don't understand it, and they are trying to figure it out on their own.

What is one thing you wish everyone knew about DLD?

Has DLD impacted on your academics?

It could be, if I'm doing a test, I **don't understand the wording of the instructions** or what to do. It could be a lot harder for me to understand the work if a task is worded differently so I **may not understand**, it may be a lot **confusing** for me.

I think it's really good because it has **helped me to understand things** differently in a way that's better for me. I never actually knew about it until I did get diagnosed with it. I used to go to a lot of people for speech therapy, but I never understood why though. Now knowing what I'm actually diagnosed with DLD and having speech and language therapists to **help me understand in different ways** is really good.

What do you think of **speech and language therapy**?

# 8 top tips for supporting children/students with DLD

## Repeat

Recap previous learning at the beginning of each lesson.  
Repeat important information and model the use of targeted vocabulary.  
Repeat activities making small changes each time to extend learning.

## Words

Pupils with DLD will know fewer words than their typically developing peers.

It is vital that we explicitly teach new words including key curriculum vocabulary.

## Modify

- Slow down!
- Rephrase information
- Chunk information
- Pause so pupils can process information more easily.

## Give time

Allow pupils with DLD more time to process information and instructions and to formulate their answers

## Check

Ask the pupils to repeat back to you what they have been asked to do so that you can assess their understanding.

## Chunk

To support the pupils' understanding of everyday instructions, chunk the information by using pauses.  
*For example:*  
"Tidy your desk ... collect your planner ... then line up."

## Visual support

Visuals help to signpost activities and trigger memory.  
Make use of interactive activities, videos kinaesthetic learning, and provide visuals for new key words in class when introducing them.

## Model

Whether spoken or written, always model the language you want the pupil with DLD to use.

To find out more about DLD, please visit:

[www.radld.org](http://www.radld.org)

**TWO CHILDREN  
IN THE AVERAGE  
CLASSROOM HAVE DLD**

Support DLD Awareness Day | **Friday 15 October 2021**

**#ThinkLanguage #ThinkDLD**

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