

Speech and Language Therapy support for children with DLD in Leeds

- We have a team of specialist SLTs working with children identified as having High Need DLD in Leeds.
- Children are referred to the specialist team by their mainstream Speech and Language Therapist, who will already have done some assessment and therapy with your child in school/nursery or clinic.
- The specialist DLD team initially offer up to six sessions of diagnostic intervention, where we work closely with the child in their setting to fully assess the child's needs, provide therapy and support parents and practitioners in delivering recommended interventions.
- According to need, the DLD team may be able to offer further support to some children or they may then receive follow up support from our mainstream SLT team.
- We also offer training to practitioners and parents.
- Primary and Secondary Language Resource schools are available for some children with high need DLD. Your specialist SLT will discuss this with you if appropriate.

If you would like further information or to discuss your child's Speech and Language needs further please contact your SLT or the DLD team:

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Where to find further information:

www.ican.org.uk

www.afasic.org.uk

www.talkingpoint.org.uk

www.youtube.com/radld

www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/cslt

NHS

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Healthcare**

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Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

A parent/practitioner guide

What is DLD?

DLD stands for Developmental Language Disorder. This means that you would expect ongoing difficulties with understanding and using language. This would have an impact on all aspects of life both at home and school.

- DLD is not caused by any other condition e.g. autism, hearing loss, genetic conditions (e.g. down syndrome, cerebral palsy).
- Children can have DLD alongside other difficulties e.g. ADHD, dyspraxia, literacy difficulties, speech difficulties.
- There is no known cause for DLD.
- DLD was previously known as Specific Language Impairment (SLI).
- It affects approximately two children in every classroom.

Possible signs of DLD

Your child may demonstrate some or all of these:

- Difficulties finding the word they want to say.
- Gaps in vocabulary – struggle to learn and remember new words.
- Difficulties understanding what is being said to them.
- Immature sounding speech such as incorrect use of tenses or unusual word order.
- Greater success learning through practical activities and visual cues like pictures.
- Difficulties answering WH questions e.g. who, where, why.



What can you do?

If your child has difficulties with using and understanding spoken language, there are a few ways you can help support them at home/school:

- Give them extra time to think about what they want to say.
- Try not to interrupt them or finish their sentence for them.
- Use visual aids such as pictures, objects or gestures to support what you are saying to them.
- Use their name to gain their attention before giving them instructions or asking questions.
- Use language that they will be able to understand.
- Say their sentence back to them with correct grammar and word order e.g. “caught ball” – “yes he caught the ball”.
- Use specific language e.g. “please put your toys in the box” instead of “please put them in there”.
- Try not to talk too fast – this will allow them time to process and understand what you are saying.
- Repeat what you have said if necessary.

