



What is DLD?

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) means a person has significant, ongoing difficulties understanding and/or using spoken language. DLD is a life-long condition.

DLD is not caused by emotional difficulties or limited exposure to language, in fact, there is no known cause of DLD and that can make it hard to explain to other people.

DLD emerges in early childhood but persists into adulthood and it affects people around the world, no matter the language spoken.

DLD is common. In one study, 1 in 14 children demonstrated symptoms of DLD. It can affect social and emotional well-being as well as success at school and work.

What signs should you look out for?

Common symptoms of DLD to look out for include:

- Children who may not talk as much as their peers
- Children who find it difficult to express themselves verbally
- Children whose language may sound immature for their age
- Children who struggle to find words or have a limited vocabulary
- Children who do not understand, or remember, what has been said to them
- Older children may have difficulties reading and using written language

They may experience difficulties with:

- Understanding instructions, especially those involving more than one step
- Answering questions
- Learning new words
- Putting words together to speak in sentences
- Reading
- Writing sentences
- Telling stories
- Playing with others

If you are concerned that your child may have DLD, please speak to your child's class teacher.

