Useful resources and websites:

RADLD - Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder - RADLD
Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) awareness - Speech and Language UK: Changing young lives
Clinical information on developmental language disorder (DLD) | RCSLT

DLD and Me is a website for kids and teenagers to learn about (DLD) and to share with others their stories.

Afasic is a parent led membership organisation and registered charity that provides information for families who have Speech Language and Communication Needs with a focus on DLD. They even have a helpline for parents to ring to discuss their concerns around their child's speech and language needs.

Remember that you are the expert in your child, and nobody knows them quite like you do. You are an invaluable resource for advocating for them, helping them and ensuring others understand their strengths and needs.

CADMUS INCLUSIVE

Thinking differently for a brighter tomorrow...
Cadmus inclusive is a neuro-affirming, dynamic, expert led service that provides person-centered and innovative approaches to meet the unique needs of all of their pupils.

Contact

www.cadmusinclusive.co.uk

DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER

DLD

A guide for parents



What is DLD?

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is a diagnosis given to children and adults who have language difficulties in both understanding what is said to them and responding clearly. It is a life-long condition.

A Little More Information

Young people with DLD have difficulty in understanding language which can result in not following instructions correctly or completely. Their responses to questions may be off topic or incorrect and they may find it difficult to learn and understand vocabulary. DLD also affects young people's ability to express themselves using language. Their spoken language may be structured in short phrases and contain less sophisticated vocabulary. They may also have word finding difficulties and as a result their word order can sometimes be jumbled up as they speak or their speech may contain long pauses as they struggle to retrieve a word to say aloud.
Due to these areas of difference, children with DLD can sometimes find social interaction challenging and their ability to make and keep friends may be affected. Any child who has a communication difference may also develop issues around anxiety or begin to misbehave in class. A child's challenges with these areas of difference may change over time due to factors such as language load, cognitive load and environment.

Ways to support at home

There are many ways of supporting children with DLD at home. It really is about looking at your child and identifying what their difficulties are and matching a support to help reduce that difficulty.

The biggest way that you can support your child at home with their talking is by making sure that you make **time for talking**. In a very busy world, where routines are fast paced, providing an environment where your child feels comfortable to talk, without any rush or pressure to hurry up with what they are saying is so important.

As children with DLD often struggle to understand and process things that are said to them, simply by **reducing the length of your sentences** when talking to your child can be really supportive. **Try rephrasing** what you are saying in a simpler way and **consider the vocabulary** that you are using and simplify it.

Talk to your child about what they find difficult and if needed support them in identifying what it is exactly that they find challenging. **Teach your child that it's OK to ask for help** and provide suggestions of **specific phrases** that they can use to ask for help. For example "I didn't understand that" "Can you say it again?" "Can you explain it in a different way?".

Dependent upon your child's level of spoken language it may be useful to provide supportive **pictorial visuals** around the house. For example having a visual displaying the choices for breakfast that you point to as you talk will help your child to process and understand all of the choices available. By keeping it there you are also providing your child with a means of communicating their choice by pointing when putting words together is challenging. Pictorial representations of processes such as getting ready for school can also be supportive.

Finally, going through physically how to do something by **modelling** the process alongside your spoken instructions will also be really supportive.

As DLD is a life long speech and language difference, supports and strategies need to be implemented continually.