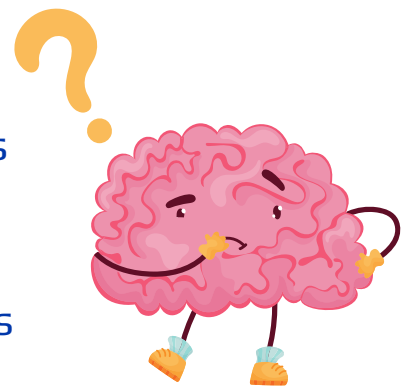


Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

DLD is a difficulty with learning, understanding and/or using language with NO obvious cause such as Learning Disability, Autism or Hearing Impairment. Children with DLD may have difficulty with understanding - such as being unable to follow instructions or respond to questions. Also with talking - such as making grammatical errors, putting words together to make sentences or learning vocabulary and word meanings. They may also find social use of language challenging - such as making conversation, using body language and interpreting others.

There is currently no known cause for DLD but scientists think the part of the brain responsible for language development may be wired differently - this is too subtle to show up on a brain scan. There may also be DNA involvement. It's quite common, with research suggesting it affects 2 children in every class of 30. Signs of DLD include:



- ▶ Delays in learning at school and trouble retaining learning.
- ▶ Struggling to express themselves and give explanations or tell stories. Finds it difficult to follow instructions.
- ▶ Difficulty forming friendships and possible distressed behaviour. Emotional reactions like frustration and anxiety.
- ▶ Significant difference in use/understanding of language for age group.

If you are concerned about your child's language development, please get in contact with your local NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service or talk to their school/nursery setting/Health Visitor.



Speech and Language Academy
A helping hand with communication