



Did you know that DLD affects approximately 7% of children in the UK?

DLD is more common than Autism, however it is not as widely known about.



Children and young people in Plymouth with DLD may be able to access extra support from Speech and Language Therapists along with input from other professionals.



Some children with DLD may benefit from placement at the Language Support Centres located at Thornbury Primary School and Tor Bridge High.

## Contact details

Children's Speech and Language Service  
Four Greens Community Trust  
15 Whitleigh Green  
Plymouth  
PL5 4DD  
Tel: 01752 434844

Email: [Livewell.childrens-sl@nhs.net](mailto:Livewell.childrens-sl@nhs.net)

Website: [www.livewellsouthwest.co.uk](http://www.livewellsouthwest.co.uk)

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## Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)



## Teacher information

A child or young person with DLD has significant on-going difficulties understanding and / or using spoken language in all the languages they use

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## What are the signs of DLD?

Children may not understand or remember what has been said to them. Paying attention and focussing in class may be challenging for them.

They may be very quiet and find it difficult to express themselves using words.

They may struggle to find words, have a limited vocabulary and / or find it hard to sequence their ideas.

Some children may have difficulties with learning to read and write.

Some children may take language literally and struggle to understand hidden meanings, for example, jokes.

Making and keeping friends may be difficult.

DLD looks different in each individual child and their specific difficulties can change as they get older.

### Look behind the behaviour

Behavioural issues such as anxiety or misbehaving in class may mask DLD.

(Bishop 2012)

## Impact

DLD is a long term condition that can impact on a child/ young person's learning and achievement at school.

DLD can affect social interaction skills and ability to make and keep friends.

DLD may impact on a child / young person's emotional wellbeing.



## How to help the child / young person

- ★ Make sure you have their attention.
- ★ Talk slowly and give additional time to help them process and understand the language.
- ★ Check they have understood instructions and new information.
- ★ Use simple sentences and short instructions and use fewer questions.
- ★ Pre-teach and repeat new vocabulary using objects, pictures and actions.

Children with DLD often learn and understand better through visual and / or practical methods rather than spoken instructions, e.g. through acting out or drawing a story rather than just listening to it.



There is no known cause of DLD. It is not caused by emotional difficulties, limited exposure to language or other medical conditions e.g. hearing loss, autism or severe learning difficulties.

A child or young person with DLD may also have other difficulties such as ADHD, Dyslexia and / or difficulties with speech sounds.