

## Speech and Language Therapy Service in Hackney

Young people with DLD in Hackney may be able to access extra support from Speech and Language Therapists and Specialist Teachers.

## Our contact details

### Speech and Language Therapy

Tel: 020 7683 4262

Email: [huh-tr.sltinfo@nhs.net](mailto:huh-tr.sltinfo@nhs.net)

Web: <http://gethackneytalking.co.uk/>

Twitter: @HackneyTalk

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/gethackneytalking/>

# Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) in secondary schools

## Who to contact

If you have any concern, please get in touch with the school's SENCO or contact our service directly.



Did you know that **DLD is predicted to affect 7% of children and young people** in the general population?

This is more common than autism, however, DLD is not as widely known about.

## Parent information leaflet



# What is DLD?

- DLD stands for *Developmental Language Disorder*. Having DLD means that you have **significant, on-going difficulties understanding and/or using spoken language, in all the languages you use.**
- There is **no single known cause** of DLD which can make it hard to explain. DLD is **not caused** by emotional difficulties or limited exposure to language.
- A young person with DLD **may also have other difficulties**, such as, Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Dyslexia and/ or speech sound difficulties.
- DLD is **not caused** by other medical conditions, such as, hearing loss, physical impairment, Autism, severe learning difficulties or brain injuries. However, these children and young people with these difficulties may also have a Language Disorder.

## What signs may an adolescent with DLD present with?

- Difficulty **understanding instructions and information**
- Limited **vocabulary or difficulties finding words**
- Difficulty understanding **puns, idioms, jokes, sarcasm and slang**
- Difficulty **thinking flexibly**
- Difficulty **remembering what has been said**
- Difficulty **paying attention in class**
- Difficulty **learning to read and de-code texts.**
- Difficulty **making friends and maintaining friendships**
- Difficulty **understanding and managing emotions**
- Difficulty **telling narratives** (e.g. saying what they did during the day or what happened at break time)

**Remember:** Language difficulties may also underlie **behavioral difficulties** such as **low self-esteem, anxiety or misbehaving in class.**

DLD can look **different** in different individuals and their specific skills may change with time.

## How will this affect my child?

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

Young people with DLD are at risk of **underachieving academically**. They may need **extra help** throughout schooling.

Young people with DLD are at risk of **behavioural difficulties** (e.g. difficulty dealing with conflict, regulating own emotions)

Sometimes DLD can affect young people's **social interaction skills** and their ability to **make and keep friends**. This may also affect **employment opportunities** and **mental health** for these young people.

Young people with DLD usually learn and understand better through **visual and/or practical methods**, rather than verbal methods. For example, they may understand a story better if they **watched it being acted out**, or learnt through multi-sensory experience, rather listening to it being or reading it.

Young people with DLD may have **strengths in more practical subjects** such as Physical Education, Design & Technology and Art.

## How can you support your child at home?

- **Get your child's attention** - say their name before asking questions or giving instruction so they know they have to listen
- **Use visuals** – visual cues (such as gestures and pictures, acting things out) will help them understand and remember information
- **Use simple sentences and short instructions** – keeping the information short and simple will help your child understand it and remember it
- **Check they have understood** instructions or new information
- **Give your child time** – your child may need more time to think, find their words and express themselves.
- **Praise their effort** and **acknowledge** what they have to said, to support their confidence in speaking.
- **Encourage your child to communicate with you** however they can, accept gesture, pointing, facial expression.