

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)



DLD refers to significant difficulties using and/or understanding language.

- A young child with DLD might not meet language milestones.
- A school student with DLD may find learning vocabulary and using complex sentences difficult.
- An adult with DLD might have difficulty comprehending directions and sharing his/her views.



1 in 14 people
have a hidden
condition called DLD.



Key facts about DLD

1

DLD is not part of a complex disorder like autism, hearing loss, or intellectual disability, hence it is a relatively hidden disability¹.

2

DLD commonly occurs with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia and reading comprehension difficulties¹.

3

DLD affects approximately two children in every classroom, impacting literacy, learning, friendships, emotional well-being and employment².

4

DLD tends to run in families and is likely the combined impact of many genes¹.

5

DLD is a lifelong disorder and young adults with DLD are at risk of experiencing difficulties in friendship and community integration³.

DLD: Intervention and support

- Interventions must be of high quality and of sufficient duration to be effective⁵.
- Support from professionals, including speech and language therapists and teachers, can make a real difference⁶.

DLD: Lived experience⁴

"Some girls pressed my DLD by randomly asking me to define words, such as "origami," then laughing at me when I could not describe them well."

"I struggled reading articles and then having roundtable discussions—the teacher graded on participation, and, as a student who struggled with processing the language during these heated, bustling conversations, I retreated into myself."

"I gained much knowledge about myself and my DLD by the end of my undergraduate career."

DLD: Public recognition and the RADLD campaign

- DLD is under-researched and individuals with DLD are under-served⁷.
- The RADLD (formerly RALLI) campaign makes a sustained effort to increase awareness of DLD around the world since 2012.
- The RADLD campaign works with volunteers to share basic facts about DLD via a YouTube channel, social media, website and supporting materials, and the annual international #DLDday.

**Learn more about
DLD at RADLD.ORG**

With the right support, people with DLD can thrive!

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