DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER

Strategies for activity leaders and coaches

There are some simple things you can do to support a child or young person who has Developmental Language Disorder (DLD). These support strategies can make a real difference to those who might otherwise struggle to join in due to their language needs.

How can I support a child or young person who has DLD?

GET THEIR ATTENTION

Say their name and make sure they're listening.





MODIFY YOUR LANGUAGE

Use simple words. Keep sentences short.

SLOW DOWN

Talk calmly and slowly. Give them time to respond.





KEEP INSTRUCTIONS SHORT

Say exactly what you want them to do, one instruction at a time.

MAKE IT VISUAL

Use gestures, facial expression, pictures and diagrams.





CHECK THEY'VE UNDERSTOOD

Ask them to repeat what you have said.

HELP THEM CHOOSE

Reduce the number of choices. Show or point to options.





EXPLAIN NEW WORDS

Talk about what new words mean and repeat them often.

STOP AND LISTEN

Repeat back what they say to check you've understood them.





CELEBRATE STRENGTHS

Make positive comments about joining in and commend effort.

Further support and guidance can be found at:

moorhouseinstitute.com/dld