DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER

Children with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) have significant, on-going difficulties understanding and/or using language which can affect their behaviour and progress at school.

What signs should parents/carers look out for?

If your child has DLD, they may struggle with...

EXPRESSING IDEAS

sharing thoughts and feelings, talking about something that has happened, expressing their needs



VOCABULARY

learning, remembering and using new words



FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS

understanding and remembering what to do, particularly with non-routine instructions



CONVERSATION

following and joining in with conversations, especially in a group



MAKING SENSE

putting words together to make a spoken or written sentence that others can understand



CONCENTRATION

maintaining attention, so may tire easily



READING & WRITING

making links between letters, sounds, words and meaning for reading and writing



BEHAVIOUR

managing emotions, which may lead to frustration, avoidance, anxiety and being unusually upset



FRIENDSHIP & PLAY

making friends, joining in with play, following the rules of a game



CONFIDENCE

using and understanding language without significant adult support



Further support and guidance for parents can be found at:

afasic.org.uk

moorhouseinstitute.com/dld

Moor House Research & Training Institute, Mill Lane, Hurst Green, Oxted, RH8 9AQ

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How can I support my child's communication?

GET THEIR ATTENTION
say their name and get down to their level to support their listening

USE SIMPLE LANGUAGE
keep sentences short; use simple words; repeat if necessary

KEEP INSTRUCTIONS SHORT
say exactly what you want them to do; give one instruction at a time

SLOW DOWN
talk calmly and slowly; give them time to respond

HELP THEM SEE IT
use gestures, facial expression, pictures and symbols to help them understand what you say

CHECK THEY'VE UNDERSTOOD
ask them to repeat what you have said; if needed, say it again and show them

LET THEM CHOOSE
reduce the number of choices; show them or point to the options

FOCUS ON WORDS
talk about new words; explain their meaning and use them often in play and shared activities

STOP AND LISTEN!
make positive comments; repeat what they say with correct grammar

ENJOY TIME TOGETHER
model language while you play; practise taking turns and listening to each other; have fun!

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