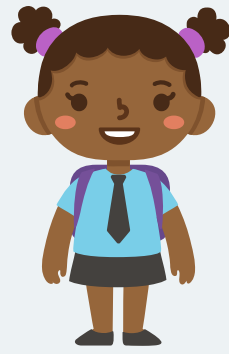




# Developmental Language Disorder



Across all dialects of English and all languages, some children struggle to learn language compared to their siblings, cousins, and friends; these children may have Developmental Language Disorder (DLD).



## CHARACTERISTICS

DLD is not caused by a hearing impairment, intellectual disability, autism, or other conditions. Children with DLD often display difficulties:

- Understanding others
- Talking to others
- Making friends and completing school work



## STATISTICS

As the most common disorder of early childhood, DLD:

- Affects 5X more children than autism
- Presents in 7-15% of kindergartners
- Leads to later reading difficulties in 50-70% of children
- Doubles the risk and negative effects of being bullied at school
- Runs in families, with 2X the rate of a positive family history than other children



## DIALECT UNIVERSAL MARKERS OF DLD

Some clinical markers of DLD are found in all dialects of English and all languages, including a reliance on generic words and simple sentence structure.

- A young child with DLD says: "*it*", or "*go*"; Others say: "*bulldozer*" or "*drive*"
- A young child with DLD says: "*I see it*"; Others say: "*I see the baby playing with a toy*"



## DIALECT SPECIFIC MARKERS OF DLD

Some clinical markers of DLD are specific to a child's dialect and language. Some English dialects include:

- General American English, African American English, Southern White English, Appalachian English, Cajun/Creole English, Gullah/Geechee-influenced English
- English influenced by another language, such as Spanish, Mandarin, or Vietnamese



## SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

Speech-language pathologists assess and treat children with DLD

- Services for DLD are customized for a child's family, dialect, and language
- Language therapy helps children succeed socially and academically