Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) Important Information for Educators

**What is Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)?**
DLD is a brain-based, developmental disorder that makes using language and understanding language difficult. It can cause academic and/or social-emotional difficulties.

DLD can co-occur with other disorders, such as dyslexia and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

**Kids with DLD are:**
- 4x more likely to have math difficulties
- 6x more likely to have reading difficulties.

**How common is DLD?**
Roughly 1 in 14 kids has DLD. It is almost 5 times more common than autism.

**What does DLD look like in students?**
- Problems finding the right words, expressing ideas, talking about events, or answering questions
- Problems understanding academic information and/or following directions
- Problems paying attention
- Problems socializing with peers
- Problems with written language

**DLD is often first noticed in early childhood and does not go away.**

**What should I do if I suspect that my student has DLD?**
The earlier kids with DLD are identified, the better. With the right help, kids with DLD can be happy and successful students.

If you are concerned a student in your classroom has DLD, refer them for a language screening and/or language evaluation as soon as possible. Your school speech-language pathologist can provide assistance and information about how to do this.

**Where can I find more information about DLD?**
Your school SLP can help answer your questions about DLD.

The following websites also provide great information for educators:
- Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder
- DLD and Me
- The DLD Project

FOR MORE RESOURCES FOR BUSY SLPS, VISIT STORYWHYS.COM