

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

Important Information for Educators

1 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.

2 What does DLD look like in students?

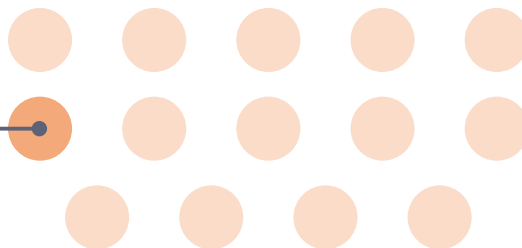
Kids with DLD may exhibit:

- 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

3 How common is DLD?

Roughly 1 in 14 kids has DLD.

It is almost 5 times more common than autism.



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

4 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.

5 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](#)