

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

**Speech and Language Therapy Department
Community and Therapy Services
Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital**

**This leaflet has been designed to
give you important information
about DLD, and to answer some
common queries you may have.**

Information for patients and visitors

Introduction:

DLD stands for Developmental Language Disorder. Having DLD means your child may have difficulties with understanding and/or using all known languages. DLD can be identified in children from the age of 5 who are likely to have difficulties which may affect their academic progress and persist into adulthood. DLD is believed to affect around 2 children in every classroom. DLD is more common in boys than girls.

DLD was previously known as Specific Language Impairment (SLI).

Causes:

There is **no known cause** of DLD, which can make it hard to explain. DLD is **not caused** by emotional difficulties or reduced exposure to language. However, a child or young person with DLD may or may not have difficulties in other areas. A child may or may not have medical conditions co-existing with DLD, but these **do not cause** DLD.

Signs that a child or young person may have DLD?

- Speech is difficult to understand
- Difficulty saying words or sentences
- Lower than average literacy skills e.g reading, writing and spelling
- Difficulty understanding how and when to use language appropriately in social situations
- Difficulty understanding words or instructions that they hear from others
- Difficulty understanding or remembering what has been said to them

Remember: DLD looks different in each individual child

How might this affect my child?

DLD is **ongoing and significant**, which means that it is a long-term condition which may affect learning and achievement. Children with DLD may present with the following difficulties:

- Joining in with other children
- Following what is going on in the playground, or in the classroom
- Making and keeping friends
- Frustration
- Difficulties with behavior



Information for patients and visitors

How can I support my child?

Children with DLD often learn and understand information easier through **additional visual and/or practical** means. For example, a child may understand a story better if they watched it and drew it, alongside simple verbal language.

Top tips:

- Use a picture or object to represent new words and vocabulary
- Call your child's name to get their attention
- Play and talk face-to-face with your child
- Keep what you say to your child short and simple
- You may need to talk calmly and slowly
- Ask fewer questions
- Use less complicated words
- Reduce distractions, e.g turn off the TV, computer, phone
- Check that they have understood you by asking them to repeat back your instruction
- Check your child has understood you before moving on

Remember: if your child has DLD, they are **NOT** being lazy or rude. Your child may **not understand** what you have said to them

How can we support DLD?

If you are concerned about your child's speech or language development, you can refer your child to Speech and Language Therapy through your child's school or school nurse. You can also self-refer as a parent by using our contact details in the leaflet.

Your child will be assessed by a Speech and Language Therapist and then receive appropriate support. A child with DLD is unlikely to 'catch up' without specific help from a Speech and Language Therapist. There is no 'gold standard' treatment for DLD, as each individual child may present with different areas of difficulties and skills. A tailored package of care can be developed by a Speech and Language Therapist to support a child's individual needs.

References:

Afasic (2016) Developmental Language Disorder (previously Specific language impairment).

Get Hackney Talking (2016) Developmental Language Disorder (DLD): Parent Information Leaflet. Available: www.gethackneytalking.co.uk

I CAN (n.d) Factsheet: Developmental Language Disorder. Available: www.talkingpoint.org.uk



Information for patients and visitors

Concerns and Queries

If you have any concerns / queries about any of the services offered by the Trust, in the first instance, please speak to the person providing your care.

For Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01472) 875403 or at the PALS office which is situated near the main entrance.

For Scunthorpe General Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01724) 290132 or at the PALS office which is situated on C Floor.

Alternatively you can email:

nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

Confidentiality

Information on NHS patients is collected in a variety of ways and for a variety of reasons (e.g. providing care and treatment, managing and planning the NHS, training and educating staff, research etc.).

Everyone working for the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential. Information will only ever be shared with people who have a genuine need for it (e.g. your GP or other professionals from whom you have been receiving care) or if the law requires it, for example, to notify a birth.

Please be assured however that anyone who receives information from us is also under a legal duty to keep it confidential.

Zero Tolerance - Violent, Threatening and Abusive Behaviour

The Trust and its staff are committed to providing high quality care to patients within the department. However, we wish to advise all patients / visitors that the following inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated:

- Swearing
- Threatening / abusive behaviour
- Verbal / physical abuse

The Trust reserves the right to withdraw from treating patients whom are threatening / abusive / violent and ensuring the removal of those persons from the premises.

All acts of criminal violence and aggression will be notified to the Police immediately.

Risk Management Strategy



Information for patients and visitors

The Trust welcomes comments and suggestions from patients and visitors that could help to reduce risk.

Perhaps you have experienced something whilst in hospital, whilst attending as an outpatient or as a visitor and you felt at risk.

Please tell a member of staff on the ward or in the department you are attending / visiting.

Moving & Handling

The Trust operates a Minimal Lifting Policy, which in essence means patients are only ever lifted by nursing staff in an emergency situation.

Patients are always encouraged to help themselves as much as possible when mobilising, and if unable to do so, equipment may be used to assist in their safe transfer.

If you have any questions regarding moving and handling of patients within the Trust, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department you are visiting.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service offers confidential advice, support and information on any health related matters.

If you have a comment, concern, complaint or compliment about the care or service you have received from the Trust you can contact the PALS team as follows:

Telephone: 03033 306518

Email: nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

There are also offices at both the Diana Princess of Wales Hospital (near the main entrance) and Scunthorpe General Hospital (on the C Floor, near the outpatient department), should you wish to visit.

Please note: PALS should not be contacted for clinical advice relating to the content of this leaflet. The service should be contacted directly in the first instance.

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

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Scarcho Road
Grimsby
DN33 2BA**

**Scunthorpe General Hospital
Cliff Gardens
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BH**

**Goole & District Hospital
Woodland Avenue**



Information for patients and visitors

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