

Raising Awareness About Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

Understanding, recognizing, and supporting the 1 in 14 people living with a hidden condition that affects how they talk and understand language.



What Is Developmental Language Disorder?

DLD is a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition that affects a person's ability to talk, understand words, and process language — without a clear cause like hearing loss or autism.

1 in 14

People Affected

~7% of the population worldwide

2

Per Classroom

In every class of 30 children

Despite its prevalence, DLD remains **hidden and misunderstood**, leaving countless children feeling invisible and unsupported in their daily lives.



The Hidden Impact of DLD



A Silent Crisis

Two million children in the UK alone struggle with language difficulties requiring urgent help. Without timely support, DLD can severely affect:

- **Academic attainment** — falling behind in reading, writing, and comprehension
- **Employment prospects** — reduced confidence in interviews and the workplace
- **Social skills and emotional wellbeing** — increased anxiety, isolation, and frustration

Many children remain **undiagnosed**, missing the critical window for early intervention.

GLOBAL MOVEMENT

DLD Awareness Day — October 17

**40+
Countries**

Participating
annually in
awareness events
worldwide

**80+
Landmarks**

Lit up in purple
and yellow in
2024 to
symbolize
visibility

**1.2M+
Views**

Social media
campaigns
spreading vital
facts and stories



How Educators Can Make a Difference

Recognize the Signs Early

Watch for **delayed speech**, difficulty following multi-step instructions, limited vocabulary, and trouble forming sentences compared to peers.

Use Evidence-Based Resources

Access training programs specifically designed for schools and nurseries to build confidence in identifying and supporting DLD.

Collaborate With Specialists

Partner with **speech and language therapists** to create tailored classroom strategies that help every child thrive.



Community and Advocacy Actions

1

Host or Join Events

Organize activities on **DLD Awareness Day** to educate neighbors, colleagues, and your wider community about this hidden condition.

2

Amplify the Message

Share awareness materials and **social media toolkits** — every post, story, and conversation helps break the silence around DLD.

3

Advocate for Policy Change

Push for **improved access** to specialist services and increased funding for speech and language support at local and national levels.

The DLD Project & Speech and Language



Training & Resources

Workshops, online courses, and free materials for families and professionals navigating DLD.



Global Campaigns

Initiatives like "What about DLD?" uniting voices across continents to demand visibility.



Podcasts & Blogs

Expert insights and lived experiences shared to inform, inspire, and connect the DLD community.



What You Can Do Today



Share

Participate

Support

Every conversation started, every resource shared, and every dollar raised brings us closer to a world where no child with DLD is overlooked.



Together, We Can Make DLD Visible

Imagine a world where every child's voice is heard and understood.

Raising awareness is the first step to ensuring children with DLD receive the support they deserve. The movement starts with **you** — speak up, share widely, and take action for Developmental Language Disorder.