



E-DLD newsletter: **Autumn edition**

Updates on E-DLD!



134 members (120 families, 14 individuals over 16). Average age of children – 8.4. Average age of adult – 36.6



75% are from the UK, 25% are from 12 other countries.



38% have completed the yearly survey. We offer a monthly £20 voucher prize draw for E-DLD members who complete it!



11 research studies have been advertised



Upcoming events:



E-DLD event in September – online talk

- We will be having Dr Umar Toseeb talk about the social and emotional difficulties in young people with DLD. This event will be hosted by one of E-DLD's founders, Dr Jenny Gibson. The event will be held on September 15th, 7pm. Further information and tickets can be found [here](#)

E-DLD members only event – meet other E-DLD members

- On October 15th (DLD awareness day), we will be hosting 3 events at 9am, 1pm and 7pm BST. Each event will be hosted by an E-DLD co-founder. These events will be an opportunity to meet and socialise with other E-DLD members. Tickets are only available to E-DLD members.

E-DLD July event – Q&A with E-DLD founders

In July, we hosted an online Q&A for you to ask any questions about DLD and the Engage with DLD project. The questions were answered by the E-DLD founders – Dr Michelle St Clair, Dr Jenny Gibson and Professor Nicola Botting – who all have research expertise in DLD. It was great to hear your questions about DLD and the experiences that you have had. Many parents of children with DLD and adults with DLD mentioned having sensory difficulties, followed by an interesting discussion about the relationship between DLD and sensory issues. We are hoping to have more events like this in the future!



Dissertation Research Overview: Kayley Fung

Both teachers and parents/carers/guardians were interviewed about:

1. Their thoughts on bilingual children with DLD,
2. Challenges faced by bilingual children with DLD at school and home,
3. Support provided for bilingual children with DLD at school and home,
4. Their thoughts on a collaborative support model for children with DLD, where teachers, parents and speech and language therapists work together.

Some of the key findings included:

- One parent used bilingualism as an 'ego boost' for their child with DLD, to help with his self-esteem. Often people may attribute language difficulties to being bilingual, resulting in delays in the diagnosis of DLD.
- The findings suggested bilingual children with DLD were more likely to face academic and social challenges at school. However, most bilingual children with DLD were able to form a small friendship support group with their peers.
- No challenges at home were identified, aside from emotional difficulties that may be related to bilingualism in bilingual children with DLD.
- Both teachers and parents were supportive of a collaborative model to fully support DLD children. Teachers suggested this model should include an information pack to explain DLD, more tools to identify language gaps, classroom resources that are catered to DLD students, and finally guidelines on how to explain to parents that their child may have DLD.

Conclusions...

This project highlighted the need to improve the accuracy of tools used to diagnose DLD. It showed that a collaborative support model between teachers, parents, and speech and language therapists may be useful to improve the quality of life for those with DLD. Hopefully, the findings may support further research and changes in educational practice for children with DLD.

If you are interested in reading the full dissertation research project, please feel free to get in touch with kf384@bath.ac.uk.



In conversation with...

Shaun Ziegenfusz – co-founder of The DLD Project

Q: Who are you?

A: I'm a little bit of everything! I've been working as a speech pathologist for nearly 15 years across a range of clinical and managerial roles. I also completed a Master of Special Education in 2012 and I thoroughly enjoy working with students and teachers within school settings. I've been fortunate to combine my speech pathology and education interests to research the educational outcomes of students with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) as a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) candidate at Griffith University, Australia.

Q: What is The DLD Project?

A: The DLD Project was launched in August 2020 in response to a growing need for evidence based DLD information, resources and training in Australia. I partnered with my colleague, Nat Turner, who has extensive experience leading health and disability charities. We know there is extensive and evolving evidence to support people with DLD, but unfortunately these learnings and insights sit in the hands of a few. At The DLD Project, we overcome these roadblocks by providing an online platform that distributes content from contributors around the world. In addition to offering free and paid tools to support the DLD community, a portion of the proceeds goes to funding game changing DLD advocacy and research initiatives.

Q: What is one thing you hope to change?

A: My vision is to improve the educational outcomes for all students with DLD in Australia and around the world. I'm passionate about blending clinical experience and research to support young people, families, professionals and schools. One day every teacher in every school will have heard of DLD and know how to support their students as an individual.

Open-access Publications:

[Parent and child-report of alexithymia and DLD](#)

[Parent and self-report consistency of adolescents with DLD](#)

[Short-term memory problems and language ability in children with DLD](#)

Summaries for the above publications can be found on [our website](#)



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& YouTube |
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www.TheDLDProject.com

Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder Awareness Day 2021

*A message from Stephen Parsons, the UK
representative for RADLD*



DLD day

DLD Day is fast approaching on **October 15th**. This is the day of the year when we really make some noise about DLD. In fairness, we do this all year round, but we make a concerted effort on this one day.

The 2021 theme is 'Think Language, Think DLD', with the hashtags as **#ThinkLanguage** **#ThinkDLD**. The main focus of the campaign this year is teachers. Teachers are uniquely placed to identify children and young people whose language skills are not developing as expected, as well as supporting those with DLD. But most teachers have never even heard of DLD. That needs to change.

What do you want teachers to know about DLD?

We have a fantastic new animation coming out that we hope will be widely shared on social media. We will also be producing resources that can be used in schools. And this is where we need your help. We need the campaign to be about people with DLD (and their families).

In particular we want to know what **you** want class teachers to know about DLD, and what you think they can do to help.

If you have a message to send teachers, please email **hello@radld.org**

Include the person with DLD's first name, age (if a child), country, photo if you don't mind and consent details (let us know if you are fine with the quote being used or want it kept anonymous etc)

Become a RADLD Ambassador

RADLD is totally run by volunteers, and so it relies on lots of people getting involved. You can sign up and become a RADLD Ambassador. The only criteria is that you are connected to DLD somehow and you want others to know more. Go to: <https://radld.org/get-involved/ambassadors/>

There's also resources on the website: <https://radld.org/dld-awareness-day/resources-media-ideas/>

And follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter also.

Together we are raising awareness of DLD.

**TWO CHILDREN
IN THE AVERAGE
CLASSROOM HAVE DLD**

Support DLD Awareness Day | **Friday 15 October 2021**

#ThinkLanguage #ThinkDLD

RADLD.ORG



RADLD



Follow us on Twitter - @Engage_DLD

We let everyone know of our new research summaries when they come out - we aim for a summary each week!

Feel alone in supporting your child with DLD?

Consider joining the "Developmental Language Disorder (formerly SLI) Support" group on Facebook. This is a private group for people affected by a DLD diagnosis, including adults with DLD and parents like you!

Have you heard of The DLD Project?

They have collected a load of evidence-based information and resources – check it out here: <https://thedldproject.com>

