



THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION
OF SPEECH THERAPISTS
香港言語治療師協會



發展性語言障礙

Developmental
Language Disorder



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What is ...



Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is diagnosed when individuals have difficulty understanding what people say to them, and struggle to express their ideas and feelings, which hinder their academic learning, social life and work.

Causes:

- No known cause, but may run in families

Related difficulties:

- Common in individuals with attention deficits
- Often linked with dyslexia
- Challenges in communication and social skills

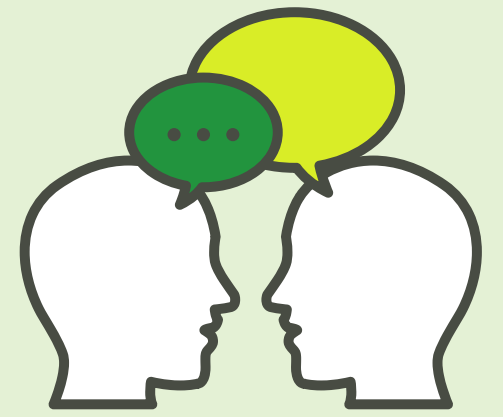


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Characteristics



- Difficulty following instructions, understanding stories and answering questions
- Limited vocabulary and difficulty finding words to express thoughts
- Difficulty producing grammatical utterances
- Limited use of complex sentences
- Difficulty sharing information; Unorganized narratives with few details
- Might have trouble staying on topic and taking turns in a conversation



Assessment

Speech Therapists will assess an individual's ability to understand and express language, and also their overall communication skills and intent.



Intervention

Therapy goals are set based on individual needs by:

- Using evidence-based methods to help individuals improve language skills and maximize communication and learning potential
- Teaching parents effective strategies that can be used in daily life to facilitate their children's learning
- Providing training and consultation for teachers to help the students at school



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Suggestions



- ✓ Get the child's attention before speaking and slow down our speech
- ✓ Repeat or stress on keywords
- ✓ Encourage children to express themselves, listen patiently and praise their efforts in trying
- ✓ Model the correct use of vocabulary and sentence structures, and use facial expressions and gestures
- ✓ Help children expand their utterances
- ✓ Read stories together, and use questions and different prompting strategies to help them understand the story content

