DLD 1 2 3

THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER (DLD)

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RAISING **AWARENESS** OF DEVELOPMENTAL **LANGUAGE** DISORDER

DLD 1 — DIFFICULTIES TALKING AND/OR UNDERSTANDING

Developmental Language Disorder is a diagnosis given when a child or adult has difficulties talking and/or understanding language.

- Involves difficulties with spoken language
- Affects children and persists into adulthood
- Creates obstacles to communication at school, work and in everyday life
- Has no known cause, although it may run in families

DLD 2 — HIDDEN BUT COMMON

DLD is hidden and affects approximately 2 children in every classroom impacting on literacy, learning, friendships and emotional well-being.

- Can be missed, misdiagnosed or misinterpreted as poor behaviour, poor listening or inattention
- Was found in 7.5% of 4-5 year olds in a recent study
- Affects a child's ability to learn at school because learning is mainly through language
- Affects reading or writing and is often linked with dyslexia
- Can be socially isolating: joining in with conversations and activities with peers can be harder, there is an increased vulnerability to bullying
- Increases the risk of lower academic achievement
- Can be associated with behavioural and/or mental health problems, unemployment and economic disadvantage

DLD 3 — SUPPORT CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE

Support from professionals, including speech and language therapists and teachers, can make a real difference.

- It is important that DLD is identified so individuals can be adequately supported
- Speech and language therapists and specialist teachers can help those with DLD to develop skills and strategies, and to understand their difficulties and their strengths
- Teachers can support children through understanding the individual child's difficulties and adapting their teaching methods
- DLD can be a long term difficulty thus adults with DLD may also need support and adjustments in the work place
- Individuals with DLD are sociable and with appropriate support can have satisfying lives, with friendships, families and contributing to their community