



DLD Awareness Day 2019

Strategies for supporting your
child's language development
while having fun

#DevLangDis

#DLDDYouandMe



Thank you for your support!

Many people and organisations
have made today possible.

We would like to extend a special thanks to:

- **LDC staff, families and volunteers** who have worked tirelessly to bring today together, especially the **DLD Day committee** and **front office staff**
- The **NEMLDC P&C** for sponsoring the petting zoo and supporting the BBQ efforts
- **Vince Connelly MP**, for providing staffing and photography support
- Mick at **World Wide Printing** and **Ms. Karen Howe** for providing signage support
- The **international RADLD committee** for providing high quality materials to help raise awareness of DLD

#DevLangDis

#DLDDYouandMe

Strategy

Contents Page

Activity station	Page
Beanbag toss.....	1
Biscuit decorating.....	2
Bubbles.....	3
Fishing.....	4
Free play.....	5
Photo booth.....	6
Lunch.....	7
Mega build.....	8
Mural & face painting.....	9
Obstacle course.....	10
Petting zoo.....	11
Scouts.....	12
Silent disco.....	13
Taekwondo.....	14
Volleyball.....	15

#DevLangDis

#DLDDYouandMe

RADLD

RAISING
AWARENESS OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
LANGUAGE DISORDER



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

BEANBAG TOSS

Tossing beanbags provides the opportunity for children to develop their gross motor skills. This experience also allows opportunities for discussion, practising social skills and increasing self-esteem as they work as part of a team.

This game is common in all primary school sport carnivals.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- **Comment** on what your child is doing **to keep conversation going** e.g.
“You threw the beanbag very high”
“I really enjoy aiming for the furthest hoop”

DID YOU KNOW

DLD can make
learning to read hard
for many students.

- **Encourage your child** to be a **good sport** such as by encouraging their peers e.g. “Great throw!”
- If your child finds the game difficult, help them learn that **it is ok to find things hard**. Do so by **modelling positive self talk** e.g. “Oh well, maybe next time I’ll get it in”,
“I tried my best -
that is what matters”

#DevLangDis

#DLDDyouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

BISCUIT DECORATING

Having fun with food allows children to develop their creativity. This experience provides opportunities for discussion and develops fine and gross motor skills, mathematical skills, social skills and increases self-esteem.

Below are some ways you can encourage conversation with your child at this station.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- Model mathematical language use, such as:
“Cover the **whole** biscuit”, “cut the lollie snake in **half**”,
“we need **many ingredients**”
- Ask your child **open questions that keep conversation going** such as:
“how does it taste?” “what should we do next?”,
“what is your favourite type of biscuit?”
- When your child shows you their creation, use **specific language** to talk about it e.g.
“I love the **colourful icing**”
“The biscuit looks **delicious!**”

DID YOU KNOW

DLD is
10 times more
prevalent than Autism
in Australia.

#DevLangDis

#DLDDyouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

BUBBLES

Bubbles are a fun and energetic opportunity for children to express creativity and build new friendships in an active hands-on activity.

Below are some ways in which you could support your child to build upon their language and social skills while engaging in play with bubbles.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- **Join in the fun!** Use positive **body language and facial expressions** to encourage your child's efforts and take part with them

DID YOU KNOW

In Australia there are almost **half a million** children and adolescents with DLD.

- **Keep the conversation going** with your child by **commenting then questioning**
E.g. "That is a huge bubble!
What do you think will happen if you gently shake the bubble wand?"
- **Put emphasis on new or key words**
E.g. "That big bubble popped **immediately!**"

#DevLangDis

#DLDDyouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

FISHING

Activities such as the fishing game provide opportunities for the development of fine motor skills and hand/eye coordination. Turn taking games also enable children to practise social skills and regulate their emotions.

You could include some of the following strategies to support your child's development while playing the fishing game.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- **Join in the fun!** Use positive body language and facial expressions to encourage your child's efforts and take part with them

DID YOU KNOW

Support from professionals, including speech pathologists and teachers can make a real difference for children with DLD.

- Encourage your child to **take turns, share and join in** with other children

- **Model strategies and self talk** for dealing with disappointment.
E.g. "I didn't catch a fish this time, but that's ok, maybe I'll catch one on my next go"

#DevLangDis

#DLDDyouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

FREE PLAY

Free play allows children to continue to develop their language and social skills in a relaxed, unstructured and safe environment. By providing a few additional materials, you can help extend play opportunities.

You could include some of the following strategies to support your child's language development while engaging in free play.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- **Be present** with your child to ensure you maximize interactions with them while they play.

DID YOU KNOW

DLD is when a child or adult has difficulties talking or understanding language.

- Allow your **child to lead the play**. Join in the activity and **follow your child's lead**. Play the way **they** want to.

- Keep the number of **closed questions in conversation to a minimum**.

Make **comments instead**.

This will encourage your child communicate while playing.
e.g. "Wow! You just built a cubby. I wonder who will live in it..."

#DevLangDis

#DLDDyouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

PHOTO BOOTH

The photo booth allows children to develop their role playing skills in addition to identifying emotions, exploring facial expressions and body language.

Using dress ups helps develop children's ability to pretend and play creatively as different characters through role play.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- **Describe** the emotions your child is expressing
e.g. "It looks like you are excited. I can tell because your mouth is wide open and your eyebrows are up"
- **Demonstrate and talk** about the **different facial expressions or gestures** we use to express our feelings.
e.g. "We can jump up and down when we are excited"
"We can scrunching up our face and fists when we feel frustrated"
- Encourage your child to engage in **imaginative or role play** using props.
- Encourage **independence** by allowing your child to **lead their own pretend play**

DID YOU KNOW

DLD can co-occur with ADHD and Dyslexia.

#DevLangDis

#DLDDyouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

LUNCH

Mealtimes provide an excellent opportunity for conversation and social interaction. It develops fine motor skills and independence when children are encouraged to set tables or cut up their own food.

You could use some of the following strategies to support your child's development of language and social skills while enjoying lunch.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- **Model** good communication skills, including appropriate eye contact, facial expressions, positive body language and active listening

DID YOU KNOW

DLD affects approximately **two children in every mainstream classroom.**

- **Keep conversations going** with your child by **commenting then asking a follow up question**
E.g. "I really enjoyed the fishing station. What has been your favourite activity so far?"

- **Model recounting** an activity that you have experienced that day. Encourage your child to do the same

#DevLangDis

#DLDDyouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

MEGA BUILD

Play is important for children's development and there are many benefits. Play activities such as construction provide opportunities for children to develop problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Playing with others promotes social and emotional development, including cooperative skills and the formation of friendships. Play activities also support the development of self-regulation.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- Follow your child's lead - allow **them** to plan the build.

Support your child to find solutions to any problems that may arise. E.g. "OK, so that box doesn't fit there. What could you do instead?"

- Comment on the building construction using **specific language** e.g. "You **balanced** two boxes", "I wonder how **stable** we can make it..."

- Encourage **turn taking and cooperation** with other children. E.g. "You could help Luke to build the wall of the fort. He added a box, now you could add the next one"

DID YOU KNOW

A person with DLD has difficulties with language, not intelligence.

#DevLangDis

#DLDDyouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

MURAL & FACE PAINTING

Painting a mural and face painting are activities that allow children to express their creativity through art as well as building self-esteem and self-awareness. These experiences open up opportunities for discussion, builds their sense of community and connection to culture.

As children often experience success through creative areas, it is recommended that you encourage your child's creativity.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- Keep helping your child **learn new words**.
 - Say a new word such as "mural" then **tell them its meaning** e.g. "a mural is piece of artwork"

DID YOU KNOW

DLD can be missed, misdiagnosed or misinterpreted as poor behaviour, poor listening or inattention.

- Use the word **many times in different sentences** e.g. "Where will you put your handprint on this mural?" "Look how colourful the mural looks"

- Encourage your child to **express their feelings using words** e.g. "Please don't paint my face. I want to do it."

#DevLangDis

#DLDDyouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

OBSTACLE COURSE

While giving children the chance to enjoy physical activity, an obstacle course also provides an opportunities learn language relating to location and movement.

You could use some of the following strategies to support your child's language growth while waiting for their turn on the obstacle course.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- **Comment** on what other children are doing on the obstacle course.
E.g. "Look, now the boy is climbing over the wall.
Next he has to go through the tunnel"

DID YOU KNOW

DLD is common,
but most people have
never heard of it.

- **Extend** what your child says by **repeating and adding a little more information** to their sentences.
E.g. "Yes, Jack is on top of the **huge** wall now"
- Help your child take turns by **talking about why it is important**
- **Emphasise key words** to make them stand out.
E.g. "See how he has to go **over** the posts"

#DevLangDis

#DLDDyouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

PETTING ZOO

Taking children to places such as a petting zoo gives children the opportunity to interact in a hands-on way. These experiences provide an opportunity for using lots of specific language and engaging in conversations.

You could include some of the following strategies to support your child's language development while enjoying the petting zoo.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- Follow your child's lead in conversation by responding with interest to what they say
- Model new and interesting words for your child.
E.g. "Look, this sheep has a **lamb**"
- Expand what your child says by repeating it and adding a little more information to their sentences.
E.g. "Yes, a soft, **fluffy** rabbit"
- Use emphasis on key words to make them stand out
E.g. "See how the duck has **webbed** feet"

DID YOU KNOW

DLD can occur with ADHD and dyslexia.

#DevLangDis

#DLDDyouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

SCOUTS WA



Social skills are the verbal and non-verbal skills we use to interact, communicate and build relationships with other people.

Scouts WA are a community group children can join to develop their social and leadership skills, form new friendships and become an active member of their wider community.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- Keep the conversation going by making a **comment** then asking a **follow up question** e.g. “This is fun! What is your favourite part of the game?”

DID YOU KNOW

It is estimated that more than 38,000 WA young people have DLD.

- Encourage your child to **join in**. Model the **self talk** your child could use to help them do so e.g. “Those children are smiling. They look like a good group to join”

#DevLangDis

#DLDDYouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

SILENT DISCO

While our primary focus at the school is supporting the development of students' oral and written language, non-verbal communication plays an important role in conveying information. Reading facial expressions and responding to non-verbal communication are important skills to develop.

The silent disco provides students with an opportunity to practice their non-verbal communication skills.

STRATEGIES TO USE

Encourage your child to:

- **Make eye contact** with a friend and use **facial expressions** and **body language** to let them know whether or not they like the song that they're listening to
- Use **gesture** to indicate to others what the next dance move should be
- Let others know that you **like their dance moves** by using gestures like high fives or thumbs up

DID YOU KNOW

Despite the large number of people affected, the exact cause of DLD remains unknown.

#DevLangDis

#DLDDYouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

TAEKWONDO

Physical activity is not only important for children's physical health but has also been found to have benefits for mood and concentration. Structured physical activity such taekwondo provides children with an opportunity to practice attending and following instructions.

Encouraging your child to join in with sporting teams or community groups allows them to form friendships in their community.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- Encourage your child to have a go and use **whole body listening**
- Remind your child that they can **repeat instructions** in their head or very quietly to themselves
- If your child doesn't understand an instruction **prompt them** to say "I didn't understand - can you say it again please?"

DID YOU KNOW

It is important that DLD is **identified** so that individuals can be **adequately supported**.

#DevLangDis

#DLDDyouandMe



DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

VOLLEYBALL

Sport provides a fun way to engage children in conversation about a shared context, and an opportunity for them to communicate with children they normally might not. It also allows children to develop important lifelong skills such as teamwork and resilience.

Encouraging your child to join a club or team promotes social interaction.

STRATEGIES TO USE

- Encourage your child to **participate and have fun**. Help them be a good sport by showing them how to **cheer on and encourage others**

DID YOU KNOW

Children with DLD often learn and understand better through **visuals and hands on experiences**, rather than verbal methods.

- **Emphasise positional language** in your comments to help children develop their concept knowledge.
e.g. “You hit the ball **over** the net!”
“The ball has gone **out** of the court”

- If your child is finding it difficult to join in, **show them** how to throw the ball over the net, and then let them have a turn

#DevLangDis

#DLDDyouandMe

