

# SLCN NEWSLETTER

BDCFT's Children's Speech and Language Therapy team  
SpringTerm 2024 newsletter

## WELCOME

In this Spring Term's edition, we share ideas inspired by dedicated staff and settings supporting Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), such as using 'Objects of Reference' and VERVE child interaction. We provide updates on new developments in the service and signpost to useful resources to support DLD (Developmental Language Disorder) and information our advice lines - for parents and professionals.



## WHAT IS DLD?



**Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)** is a disorder that makes using and understanding language difficult. It can cause academic and/or social and emotional difficulties. Children with DLD may have problems:

- Finding the right words, expressing ideas, talking about events, or answering questions.
- Understanding academic information or following directions.
- Paying attention.
- Socialising with peers.
- With written language.

Find out more about DLD by watching our 8-minute [video](#). Please speak to your link speech and language therapist if you think that a child might have DLD.

**Free parent training:** We are offering free training for parents of children in years 3-6 diagnosed with DLD. **'DLD Together'** will be delivered in the Summer term over six weeks on a weekday evening (via 'Microsoft Teams'). Parents can contact Jane Glover ([jane.glover@bdct.nhs.uk](mailto:jane.glover@bdct.nhs.uk)) for more information, or to sign up.

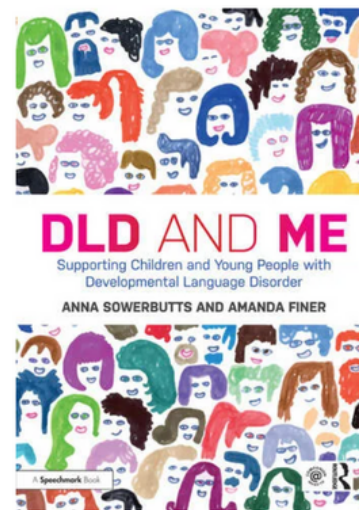


## DLD: DID YOU KNOW?

- Developmental Language Disorder affects 1 in 14 people or around 7.5% of the population. That is around **2 students in every classroom**. In Bradford, there are approximately 11,600 young people aged 0 – 19 who have DLD.
- DLD is more common than Autistic Spectrum Disorder (which affects around 2%) and ADHD (which affects 3 – 5%) but is less well known.
- Around 1% of children have severe and pervasive language difficulties – these children would sometimes benefit from a place in a specialist SLCN Resourced Provision. There are three in Bradford: based in High Craggs Primary Leadership Academy, Green Lane Primary School, and Oasis Academy (secondary school).



# RESOURCE OF THE TERM



**DLD and Me:** Supporting Children and Young People with Developmental Language Disorder, By Anna Sowerbutts, Amanda Finer.

DLD and Me (£42.99) is a functional, engaging resource for children and young people with DLD (Developmental Language Disorder) and the professionals and families that work with them. The book consists of an easy-to-follow, 12-week programme designed to help children and young people understand their strengths, what makes them different, what DLD is and how they can support their own communication in everyday life.

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



We're eager to enhance our service for young people accessing Speech and Language Therapy. **Your input matters** - We are wanting to hear from you if you're from a school (any role welcome).

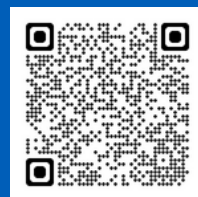


Please share your experiences and feedback through a 15-minute conversation with our student speech and language therapists at a time/day that suits you between 8th April - 17th May. Let us know your availability by via this quick form by 12th April. Your feedback will be anonymised and ultimately benefit the families we serve.



## STRATEGY SPOTLIGHT

Brilliant **Objects of Reference** set up spotted in a reception class at Low Ash Primary School. Thanks Low Ash Primary for letting us capture your resources! Objects of Reference is a great tool to support children and people in the early stages of communication development. [Read tips](#) on our website, on how to get started using Objects of Reference in your setting.





# COMMUNICATION STAR AWARD

Our "Communication Star" award aims to recognise and celebrate great practice happening with our colleagues in education, in supporting SLCN within our schools. This award recognises outstanding practices that make a difference in the lives of our students with SLCN. Whether it's innovative, inclusive teaching methods, dedicated support staff, or collaborative approaches, we want to honor those who go above and beyond.



Spring Term 2024 Communication Star:

Congratulations to

## Lisa Butterfield

Learning Mentor  
at Appleton Academy.

Lisa was nominated by Claire Lingard (Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist). **“This is for Lisa’s fabulous support with a complex child and her embracing of the use of VERVE interaction to support her.”** Thank you for all your hard work and support Lisa! Well done for being our Spring Term’s Communication Star!

If you would like to nominate a member of your team for their dedication supporting SLCN, email [speechandlanguagetherapy@bdct.nhs.uk](mailto:speechandlanguagetherapy@bdct.nhs.uk) with their name, role, setting and your reason for nominating them.

### What is VERVE?

VERVE child interaction is an approach developed by Speech and Language Therapist Keena Cummings. Our team are using VERVE with all pre-school children and families as part of our new early years pathway. The aim of VERVE

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“VERVE Child Interaction supports adults in seeing what they already do to support each child, how and when they use these skills, and how to optimise on them in order to support each child in increasing their rate of progress.”



You can find more information about [VERVE here](#).

Also follow St Edmund's Early Years Stronger Practice Hub's Facebook page, where Keena often provides “communication and regulation” training dates for settings, [here](#).



# COMMUNICATION CHAMPIONS NETWORK



"Communication Champions Network," is a collaborative initiative aimed at strengthening support for speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN) in our schools. Our goal is to create and empower a community of teaching assistants, support staff, teachers and SENCOs who are passionate about supporting children's communication. There will be opportunities to share ideas, resources and good practice and receive additional training around supporting SLCN. If you are interested in signing up to receive more information, please complete [this 5 minute survey](#).



## Q & A

**Question:** I've completed a screening tool from your website and it's identified a child meets AMBER criteria across all areas. What do school do next?

**Answer:** We suggest completing the impact rating score on the screening tool to guide your focus of targeted intervention on the area having the biggest impact i.e. understanding, talking, speech sounds or social interaction. You could book an [Advice Line call here](#), to talk through possible targeted interventions in more detail with a Speech and Language Therapist. Our website also provides suggestions of targeted interventions designed to support each area. Visit <https://www.bdct.nhs.uk/services/professionals-by-age/> select the age group, and scroll down to targeted intervention.



## ADVICE LINES



Since launching our Speech, Language and Communication support advice line last term we have been able to help many families and settings through calls (weekly bookable slots for [professionals](#) and [parents](#) are available). We are able to arrange interpreters for a range of other languages to support conversations with families who require interpreters. You will have recently received translated Advice Line posters for parents in Urdu, Arabic, Slovak and Polish for you to share with your community. Please contact [speechandlanguagetherapy@bdct.nhs.uk](mailto:speechandlanguagetherapy@bdct.nhs.uk) if you did not receive your copy.



## FEEDBACK

We highly value your feedback regarding our service. Your insights are crucial in our continuous efforts to better serve our community. We invite you to share your experiences and thoughts on how we can enhance our support via this 5 minute [survey](#) or scan the QR code.



Email: [Speechandlanguagetherapy@bdct.nhs.uk](mailto:Speechandlanguagetherapy@bdct.nhs.uk)



Website: <https://www.bdct.nhs.uk/services/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy/>



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