

## Developmental Language Disorder

Children are said to have Developmental Language Disorder if their understanding and /or talking is not following the normal pattern of development

About 1 in 20 children may have these difficulties and we do not know exactly what causes a specific problem with learning language when there are no other learning difficulties or medical problems.

### What might I notice?

- Your child could be very late to start talking
- Your child makes up their own words for things ( uses jargon)
- Your child has a limited vocabulary and may have particular difficulty with verbs ( action words) “**she do the bike**” for she is riding the bike

- Your child uses unusual word order in sentences e.g. “**he’s a crash**” or “**he’s got fallen by the bump**”
- Your child may use a lot of empty “filler” words like “**um**”
- Your child may have some learned phrases that they use over and over again
- Your child may have difficulty following instructions and understanding what people say
- They may have problems organizing their thought

### What impact can this have on my child?

If your child has difficulty understanding, they could find classroom activities very demanding without support.

If they cannot communicate their needs or feelings they can become frustrated or withdrawn

Social interaction may be difficult.

### What can the SLT service do?

- The speech and language therapist can do a detailed assessment and draw up a profile of your child’s strengths and weaknesses
- The SLT can work directly on teaching specific skills
- The SLT can suggest strategies to support communication between you , your child, their teachers and friends

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## **SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY**

## **LANGUAGE DISORDER**

**INFORMATION FOR  
PARENTS, CARERS  
AND SCHOOL STAFF**