

Children's Integrated Therapy Service

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

By Jennifer Corder

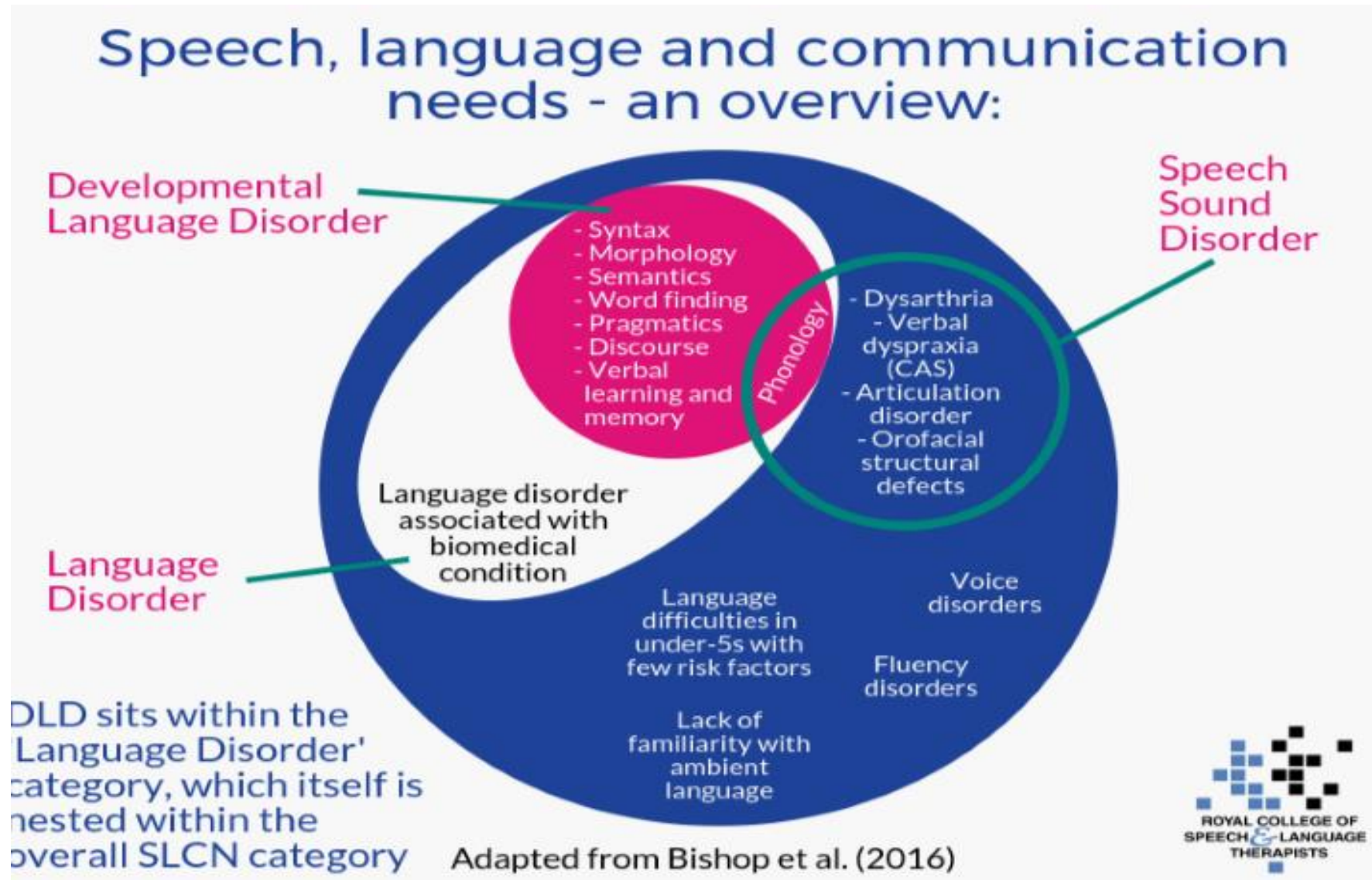
Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, NHS
Mainstream Schools in Hillingdon

November 2021

Aims

- What is DLD
- Prevalence of DLD
- Features of DLD
- What can you do to help pupils with DLD
- Key strategies to help pupils with DLD

What is DLD?



How many children have DLD?



What are the features of DLD?

Pupils with DLD may have difficulties:

- Expressing ideas, thoughts, feelings
- Explaining what has happened or story telling
- Remembering, learning and using vocabulary
- Making sense in spoken sentences
- Maintaining attention
- Behaviour
- Confidence
- Following or joining conversations especially in a group



What can you do to help?

- Early Identification e.g. Language Link assessment
- Early Intervention:
 - Strategies in the classroom
 - School led interventions delivered at least 3x30 mins per week by well-trained Teachers/Teaching Assistants under guidance of a Speech and Language Therapist e.g. Language Link groups, narrative groups
 - Staff released to observe and run follow up Speech and Language Therapy sessions
 - Collaborative teaching with a Speech and Language Therapist



Key strategies to support children with DLD in the classroom

- Use visuals e.g. pictures, symbols, photographs, natural gestures and props to support understanding.
- Simplify instructions and repeat instructions, break them into parts and give them in the order they are to be carried out.
- Model back the correct language in a natural way without making it sound like a correction e.g. If the learner said: “I broked my bike yesterday”, the response could be “You broke your bike yesterday. Is it fixed yet?”
- When you do need to ask a question, try to offer alternative responses for the pupil to select, e.g. “Do you think it will float or sink?”



**For further advice and strategies
speak to your schools Speech and
Language Therapist for any children
you are concerned about...**



Useful Websites:

- Hillingdon Talks, Moves and Plays www.cnwl.nhs.uk/hillingdon-talks-moves-plays
- Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder <https://radld.org/>
- Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) www.rcslt.org
- Afasic <https://www.afasic.org.uk/2017/08/developmental-language-disorder-dld/>
- Language and Speech Link www.speechlink.co.uk
- Hillingdon Talks Facebook page www.facebook.com/HillingdonTalks/

Any Questions?

If you have specific questions about a child please:

Speak to the Schools Speech and Language Therapist

Or

Contact CITS Admin Team on 01895 488200

Or

E-mail us at

Citsadmin.cnwl@nhs.net

to speak to your child's Speech and Language Therapist