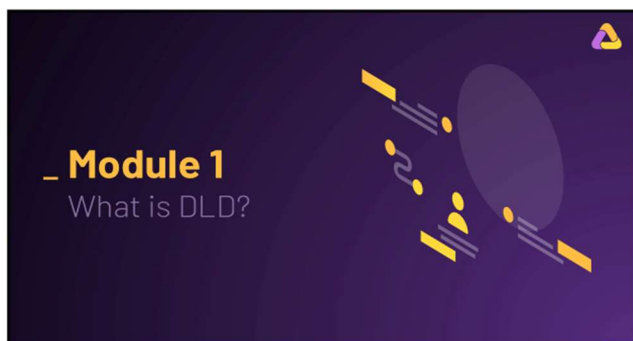
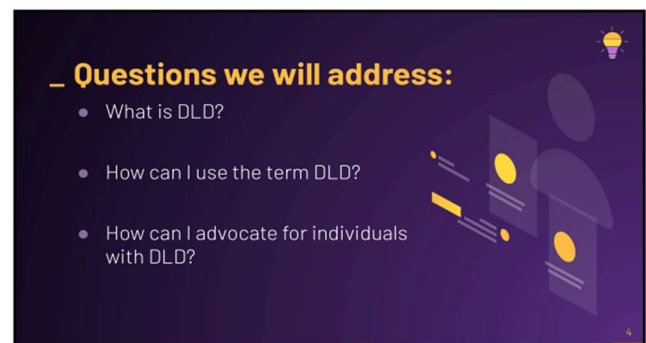
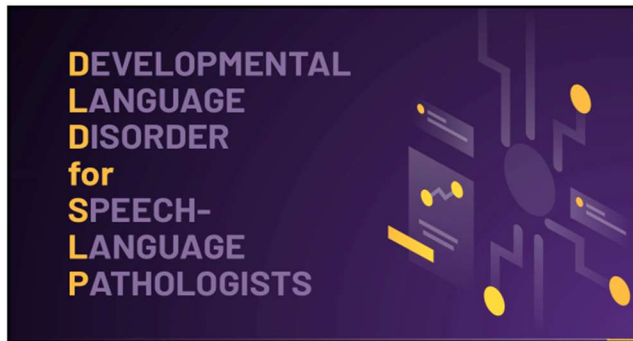


## Supplemental Material S1. Video presentation slides.



## Developmental Language Disorder

**D**evelopmental = present at birth

**L**anguage = weaknesses in expressive and/or receptive language

**D**isorder = lifelong condition

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## Developmental Language Disorder

“Developmental language disorder (DLD) is a neurodevelopmental condition that emerges in early childhood and frequently persists into adulthood. People with DLD have significant difficulty learning, understanding, and using spoken language.”

McGregor, 2020

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## Terms used to refer to DLD

Research Terminology:	Clinical Terminology:	Educational Terminology:
Developmental Aphasia or Dysphasia	Language Disorder	Developmental Delay
Specific Language Impairment (SLI)	Specific Learning Disorder	Speech or Language Impairment
Primary Language Impairment (PLI)	Expressive Language Disorder	Specific Learning Disability (SLD)
Language Learning Impairment (LLI)	Expressive and Receptive Language Disorder	

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## Mother of child identified as having “speech and cognitive difficulties”:

“So basically I want to say that with our first IEP meeting I specifically asked, I’m like, is she autistic? Like, what exactly does she have? I wasn’t given anything else so I didn’t know. So does she have a learning disability? To this day I am probably still very confused on exactly what exactly she was labeled with.”

Ash et. al., 2020

## Developmental Language Disorder

**Language Disorder**

- Developmental Language Disorder
- Language Disorder Associated with Another Condition (e.g., known genetic condition, acquired brain injury, hearing loss, autism spectrum disorder)

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## DLD and IDEA

**Language Disorder**

**Speech or Language Impairment**

**Language Disorder Associated with Another Condition**

**Developmental Language Disorder**

**Speech Sound Disorder**

**Dysarthria**

**Childhood Apraxia of Speech**

**Impaired Articulation**

**Stuttering**

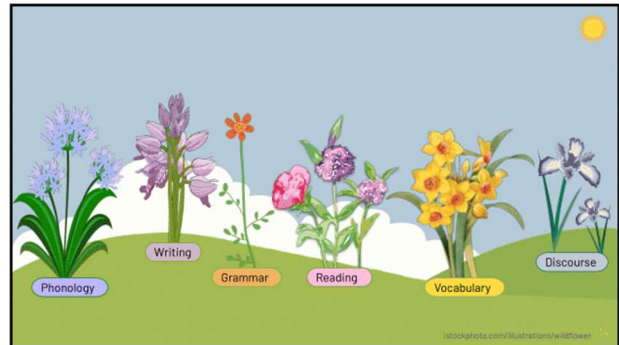
**Voice Disorders**

**Demonstrated by difficulties with:**

- Phonology
- Syntax
- Morphology
- Semantics
- Word Finding
- Pragmatics
- Discourse
- Verbal learning/memory

Adapted from Bishop et al. (2017)

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## True or False?

- DLD is associated with a biomedical condition. **FALSE**
- Children will grow out of DLD. **FALSE**
- DLD can co-occur with other neurodevelopmental disorders such as ADHD. **True**
- To be diagnosed with DLD, there must be a mismatch between verbal and nonverbal intelligence. **FALSE**
- If a child has DLD, growing up learning more than one language will make the condition worse. **FALSE**

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## Module 2

### Diagnosing DLD

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## HELLO!

Alyson D. Abel, PhD  
San Diego State University



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**“OK, I see. There are really good reasons for me to diagnose DLD. But it doesn’t work with how I qualify a child for services.”**

## – Eligibility is a set process

Two-pronged approach to qualify for services under IDEA

Meet the state/district criteria

Need special education and related services as a result of the disability

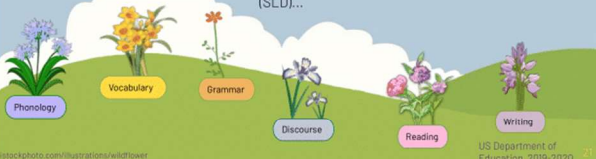
20

## Eligibility is dynamic

Speech or language impairment common ages 3-5

Through the school years, speech or language impairment often shifts to specific learning disability (SLD)...

...or children with language impairment may no longer be eligible for services



US Department of Education, 2018-2020

**Not qualifying for services under speech or language impairment – or not qualifying for services at all – does not mean a child doesn’t have DLD.**

## – Diagnosing DLD has its benefits!

Differential diagnosis guides treatment.

Using DLD as a diagnosis provides tools to help the garden grow.

Other diagnoses may be present but the DLD diagnosis will remain.

Diagnosis is determined by EBP using cutoff scores and professional judgement controlled by *you*.

DLD diagnosis remains even without eligibility.

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**“I already have to determine eligibility, adding a diagnosis seems like more work.”**

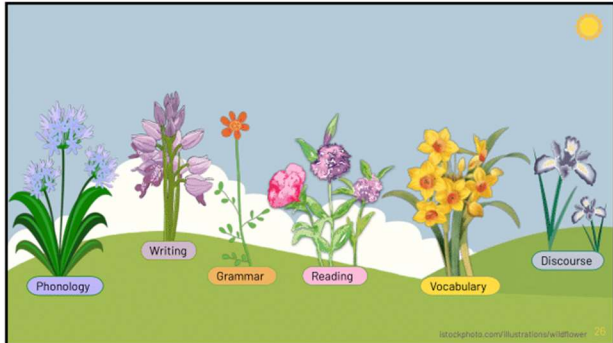
## Eligibility vs. Diagnosis: Assessment

You're already doing the heavy lifting (assessment-wise) when you establish eligibility!



In addition to using the scores, etc., that you need for eligibility, look for some telltale signs of DLD.


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Phonology Writing Grammar Reading Vocabulary Discourse

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- May look like speech sound disorder or phonological disorder (also may co-occur)
- Difficulty acquiring phonology
- Difficulty relating sounds to letters
- Deficits in phonological working memory



Phonology

istockphoto.com/illustrations/willflower 27

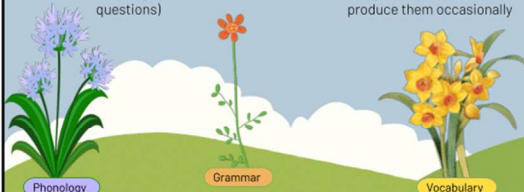
- Late onset of expressive vocabulary
- Limited use of vocabulary (i.e., relying heavily on words like *this*, *that*, *go*, *get*, *do*)
- Words with multiple meanings can be especially difficult
- Difficulty learning new vocabulary



Phonology Vocabulary

istockphoto.com/illustrations/willflower 28


- Delayed onset of combining words
- Missing or incorrect words (question words, conjunctions)
- Awkward constructions (particularly for complex sentences and questions)
- Limited productivity of early grammatical markings
- Leaves off word endings
- Particular difficulty understanding complex sentences even if they produce them occasionally



Phonology Grammar Vocabulary

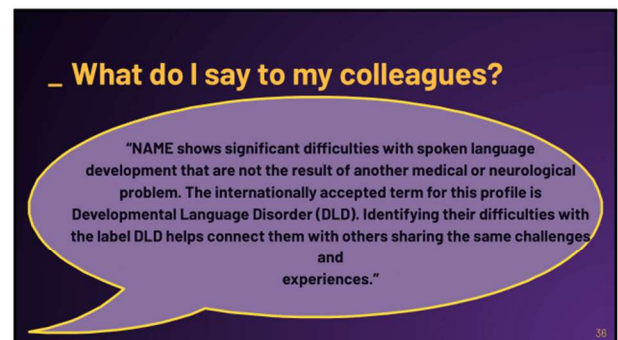
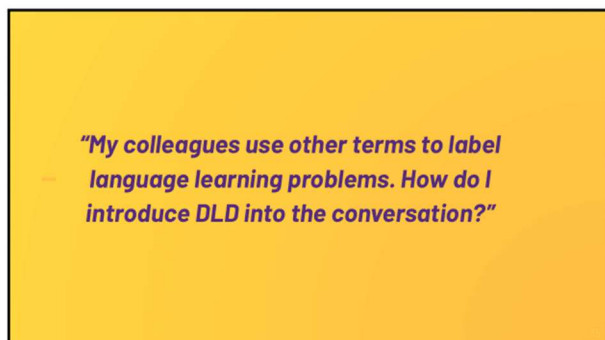
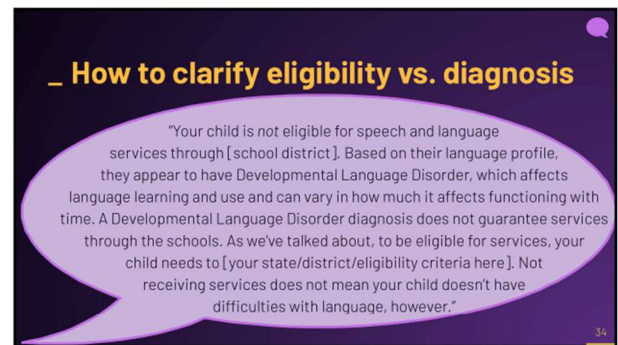
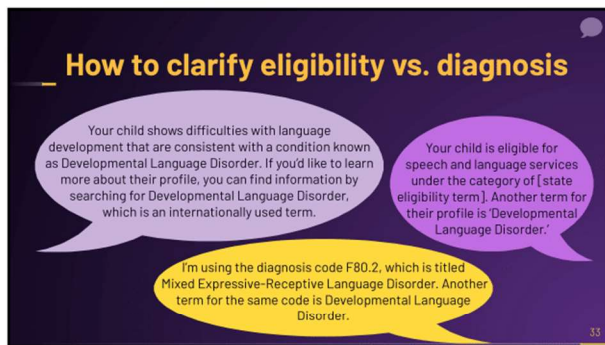
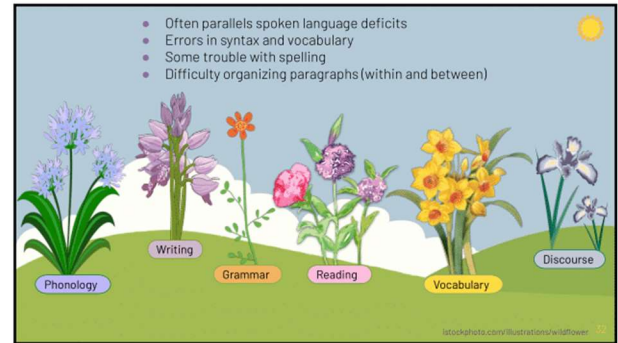
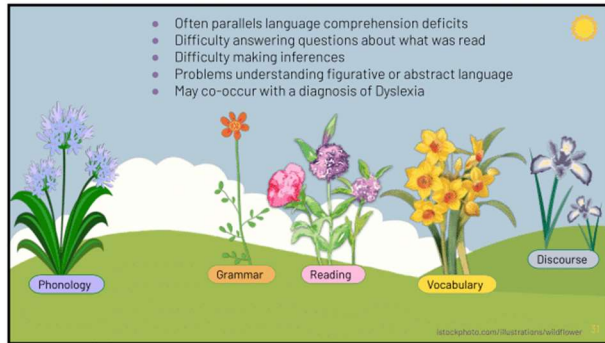
istockphoto.com/illustrations/willflower 29

- Difficulties making inferences/"reading between the lines"
- Discourse is out of order/disjointed
- Overuse/underuse/misuse of pronouns



Phonology Grammar Vocabulary Discourse

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### True or False?

- Clinicians have control over children's diagnoses. **TRUE**
- If a child is eligible for services, they may also be diagnosed with DLD. **TRUE**
- In addition to a typical evaluation, I need to gather much more information in order to identify the symptoms of DLD. **FALSE**
- As children age, DLD will look the same. **FALSE**

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### References

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## Module 3

The value of a diagnosis

## HELLO!

Jeanne Tighe, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL  
Kean University

**R4DLD**

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"If I'm already identifying language needs and qualifying the child for services, why does it matter if I use the term DLD?"

### Sharing the term DLD benefits:

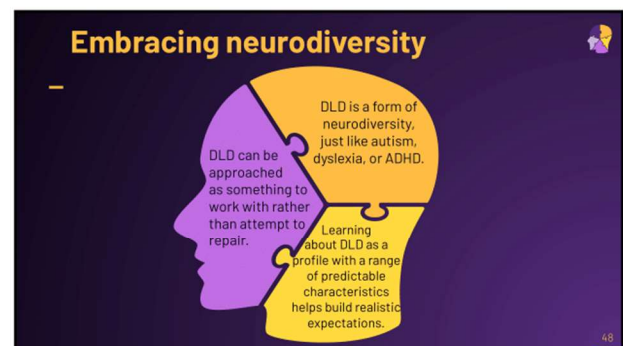
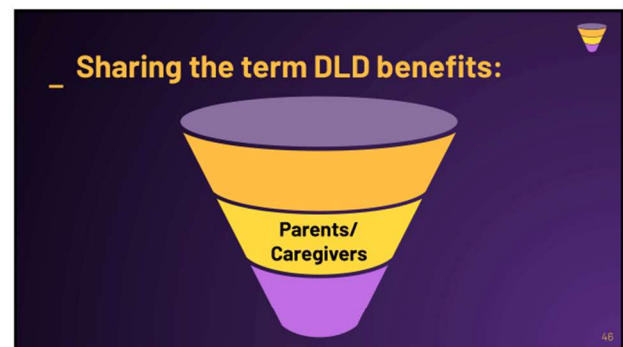
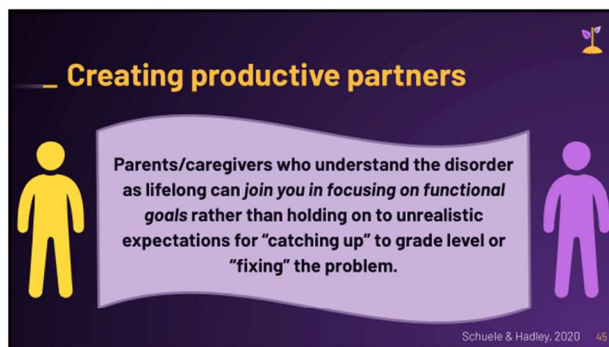
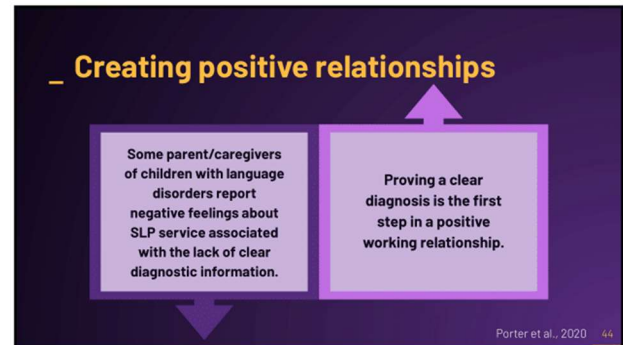
You, the SLP

Parents/Caregivers

The Child

Tighe & Namazi, 2021 [manuscript submitted for publication]

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### Caregivers need to talk to their children

When caregivers have a clear name for the child's language difficulty, they can use that name to talk with their child about their DLD and help them make sense of their experience.



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### Caregivers need to talk with other adults about the child's needs

When caregivers have a clear term for their child's language difficulties, they can use that term to have helpful conversations with extended family members, friends, coaches, clergy people, and anyone else in the child's life who would benefit from understanding their DLD.



Ash et al., 2020 50

### Caregivers can connect with their peers



Peeking over the fence to see what works in someone else's garden.

Communities form through shared identities. Parents/caregivers who know their child has DLD can find and form relationships with other families of children with DLD. Together, they have the opportunity to support each other and advocate as a group.

McGregor, 2020 51

### Finding support outside of school

A specific diagnosis of DLD can help parents...

- advocate for services or accommodations
- locate private or insurance covered support.

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### Sharing the term DLD benefits:



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### Self empowerment

Children who have difficulties in school may internalize that they are "bad" or "stupid."

Parents/caregivers who talk to their child about their neurodevelopmental differences report that it helps dispel the child's negative self-concepts.

Crane et al., 2020 54

## Self-advocacy



Children with communication differences may be perceived more positively by others after self-disclosure.

Snyder et al., 2020 55

## Diagnosing DLD Helps the Big Picture



Public awareness fuels advocacy.

Consistent terminology supports research

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## True or False?

- Diagnosing DLD benefits you, the SLP. **True**
- Caregivers often report feeling confident in talking about their child's language difficulties. **FALSE**
- Sharing the term DLD can connect children and families with a community of people with shared identities. **True**
- Talking to children about neurodevelopmental differences reduces child's negative feelings towards themselves. **True**

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## References

Ash, A. C., Christopoulos, T. T., & Redmond, S. M. (2020). "Tell Me About Your Child": A Grounded Theory Study of Mothers' Understanding of Language Disorder. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 29(2), 819-840. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2020\\_AJSLP-19-00064](https://doi.org/10.1044/2020_AJSLP-19-00064)

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## Key Takeaways

- DLD is a lifelong condition that impacts the individual in varying ways throughout their lives, much like a garden in which different plants bloom in different seasons of the year.
- The term DLD does not replace eligibility terms. It adds opportunities for understanding the child's needs.
- You have the tools you need to diagnose DLD while following your school's eligibility process or your clinic's billing procedures.
- Diagnosing DLD benefits you, the family, the team, and most of all the child.

## RESOURCES

[Linktr.ee/ThinkLanguageThinkDLD](https://linktr.ee/ThinkLanguageThinkDLD)

