


#DLDAwarenessDay #GVTwitterTakeover


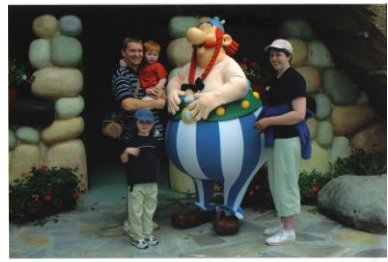
15 October 2021




Imogen Berry, Lorraine Bamblett, and Ioan Berry




Imogen (@ImiCIK21): Parent of a child with developmental language disorder


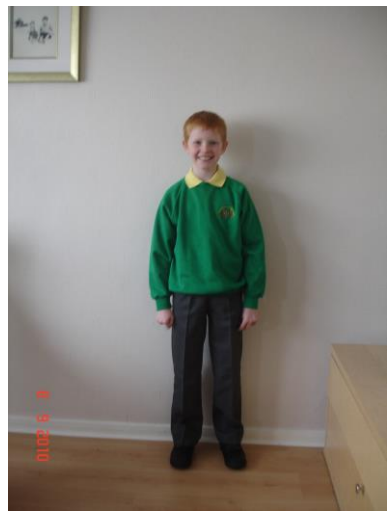
(To note: Imogen's experiences of the SEND system relate to England)



Introduction	<p>Kicking off today's #DLDAwarenessDay #GVTwitterTakeover is @ImiCIK21 with a parent's perspective on DLD. Stay tuned for @Bammo44 and @Berryloan's perspectives later today.</p> <p>#ThinkDLD #ThinkLanguage</p>	https://twitter.com/GivingVoiceUK/status/1448906491499479042?s=20
Gaining a diagnosis	<p>Ioan was born 25 months after my first son, Jotham. I knew something was different by the time he was 2 years old.</p>	

Gaining Diagnosis	Joan was a very quiet, happy and contented baby - a relief after Jotham! A bit too quiet - no babbling stage, no pointing and asking "what's that?"	
Gaining Diagnosis	I was flagging concerns from the time he was 2 years old, but just told he was a boy and speech and language would come. Jotham had been very articulate with a huge vocabulary by the time he was 2 - it was worrying!	
Gaining Diagnosis	I was finally listened to at his 3 year Health Visitor check and referred to community speech and language therapy. Still only getting a few words and his frustration was building, resulting in huge tantrums when out and about! (Hence the need for reins in the earlier photo!)	

<p>Gaining Diagnosis</p>	<p>I later realised that his toddler tantrums were a result of him only hearing/understanding “no” and not the explanation. Queueing at Disneyland Paris with him at 3 was an experience as he tried to push through to the front of all the queues. Very embarrassing!</p>	
<p>Gaining Diagnosis</p>	<p>On August 31st, 2004, Ioan had his first speech and language assessment, followed by 3 to 4 cycles of 6-week group therapy. Ioan also had glue ear, so hearing needed to be excluded as a cause for delayed speech and language. Grommets were fitted in Spring 2005.</p>	
<p>Gaining Diagnosis</p>	<p>After Ioan's grommets were fitted we had a few more words from him, but he still clearly wasn't understanding or following all that was happening around him and Nursery were raising concerns.</p>	




Gaining Diagnosis	He moved into Reception, had continued community speech and language therapy sessions and was managing to attain well in school - we didn't quite understand how!	
Gaining Diagnosis	Finally, in March 2006, we returned for a further assessment with a young therapist, Eleanor Hill. She told me I wasn't the usual type of parent as I was always reading books to him whilst waiting for therapy sessions and asked to undertake a non-verbal assessment of loan.	
Gaining Diagnosis	loan was asked to draw a person, and the level of detail demonstrated his ability. He was 4 at the time, and his drawing had the detail of 6 ½ year old. She diagnosed a language disorder as opposed to delay and suggested he may need a different educational route.	




Gaining Diagnosis	<p>We observed how he was managing so well at school, discovering he was hanging back on the carpet to cue into where he was meant to go and failing that, his friend physically herded him to where he needed to be! In the busy EY classroom his teacher had missed this happening!</p>	
Gaining Diagnosis	<p>In Year 1 and 2 loan attended a specialist speech and language centre 3 days a week, before attending full-time through the whole of Key Stage 2. Part-time attendance at mainstream school affected his friendships, which was hard for him.</p>	

Gaining Diagnosis	loan returned to mainstream school at secondary level with the support of speech and language therapist, Fiona Edge, and after a very carefully planned and managed transition process.	
Gaining Diagnosis	DLD is a lifelong condition and there are ongoing difficulties in a range of areas related to language, but loan is now in his final year of a degree at the University of South Wales. All his hard work and the support/therapy he received has helped him achieve his potential.	
Change in career direction	I trained as a teacher, with a focus on early years, qualifying in 1994 and after a few years becoming a Foundation Stage Leader. I went on to lecture at a local college on CCE and NNEB courses.	
Change in career direction	During my PGCE course we had only one lecture on Special Needs, and this simply covered the statementing process*. I had gleaned on the job experience, but not much about speech and	




	<p>language difficulties. Do you think there should be more training for teachers around DLD and SLCN?</p> <p><i>* To note: the statementing process was replaced by Education, Health and Care Plans in England following the Children and Families Act (2014).</i></p>	
Change in career direction	After loan's diagnosis, the initial shock, grief, and a whole range of other emotions, I picked myself up and began to research and learn as much as I could about DLD (then SLI) and SLCN. How can parents be supported when a DLD diagnosis is given?	
Change in career direction	I eventually undertook a Masters in Education with a focus on literacy and language development, using the specialist speech and language centre loan was attending as a research base.	
Change in career direction	Ultimately I ended up working as a specialist teacher within the speech and language centre after loan had transitioned to secondary school, prior to becoming an Assistant Headteacher responsible for inclusion at a large primary and nursery school.	
Change in career	loan's diagnosis changed my perspective and career direction. I now undertake training for I CAN and, as today, hope to raise awareness of Developmental Language Disorder and the impact this lifelong condition can have.	


<p>Change in career</p>	<p>I love this highly visual handout produced by AFASIC which is easily accessible and clearly shows many of the challenges encountered by children and young people with DLD.*</p> <p><i>To note: this visual is no longer available on the Afasic website.</i></p>	<p>For more information about speech, language and communication needs please contact:</p> <p>Afasic England 20 Buntingford Lane London EC1R 0SD</p> <p>Telephone: 020 7890 8410 Fax: 020 7261 2814 Website: www.afasicengland.org.uk Email: info@afasic.org.uk</p> <p>Registered Charity No. 1046977 Company No. 1046977 Charity No. 1046977 © Afasic</p> <p>Afasic England</p>
<p>Change in career</p>	<p>The second page of the AFASIC visual around DLD and SLCN challenges.*</p> <p><i>To note: this visual is no longer available on the Afasic website.</i></p>	<p>For more information about speech, language and communication needs please contact:</p> <p>Afasic England 20 Buntingford Lane London EC1R 0SD</p> <p>Telephone: 020 7890 8410 Fax: 020 7261 2814 Website: www.afasicengland.org.uk Email: info@afasic.org.uk</p> <p>Registered Charity No. 1046977 Company No. 1046977 Charity No. 1046977 © Afasic</p> <p>Afasic England</p>


<p>DLD and its impact on family life</p>	<p>Ioan being diagnosed with Developmental Language Disorder has had a huge impact on our family life. We are so grateful for all we have learned and all he has taught us.</p>	
<p>DLD and its impact on family life</p>	<p>Ioan's DLD diagnosis impacted on my husband's career as we were unable to relocate to Germany as Ioan's needs could not be met. However, Jonathan loves his new job role, and ended up undertaking a Masters Degree in a completely new subject area! Be open to change!</p>	
<p>DLD and its impact on family life</p>	<p>Time - supporting a child and young person with DLD takes a lot of time, both in attending appointments, therapy sessions, completing paperwork and bureaucratic SEND processes etc. It is really important and tricky to balance time between children and your spouse/partner.</p>	


<p>DLD and its impact on family life</p>	<p>We always tried to ensure Jotham had as much time with one or both of us as loan. This was hard at times to juggle work and all loan's appointments and Saturday morning therapy sessions with private therapist, Shauna Delaney.</p>	
<p>DLD and its impact on family life</p>	<p>We always knew we wanted another child, but loan's needs and the time demands required meant it was 7 years before we felt we had capacity, time and energy to welcome Orrin into our family! Now he calls us "old parents"!</p>	
<p>DLD and its impact on family life</p>	<p>Parenting a child with DLD, from my experience, means a slightly different approach, and this can cause conflict around perceived "fairness" with siblings. It can be difficult to manage.</p>	

DLD and its impact on family life	We found (and still find) that some extended family members don't really understand DLD and can sometimes cause situations and 'meltdowns' through unrealistic demands and expectations. This can be hard to endure as a parent! How can families be supported with this?	
DLD and its impact on family life	Even simple everyday things can be hard. Listen to the video about a visit to the optician!	https://twitter.com/GivingVoiceUK/status/1448942976302977094?s=20
DLD and its impact on family life	The need to always be "in the zone" as a parent. Due to his word finding difficulties we had a few of these, particularly when younger. One in particular was him standing at the top of the stairs shouting that he wanted his "cool trousers" - he meant shorts!	
DLD and its impact on family life	Avoid noisy environments. I recall going on a mother/son date for a meal at Frankie and Bennys, and trying to have a conversation. loan had to stop me talking as he said he couldn't concentrate on what I was saying due to the noise. We ate in silence!	
DLD and its impact on family life	loan can be very easily distracted! I remember getting very frustrated when having 3 children to get ready for school in the morning, and regularly finding loan sat naked on his bed reading a non-fiction book! He had forgotten the directive to get dressed as we needed to leave!	


<p>DLD and its impact on family life</p>	<p>Particularly in the early days, many family activities were driven around building on loan's interests and providing plenty of first hand experiences to assist with vocabulary and concept acquisition. Jotham was very good at going along with everything!</p>	
<p>DLD and its impact on family life</p>	<p>Don't underestimate the impact on siblings of having a brother/sister with DLD. I remember 9 year old Jotham asking me when I was pregnant with Orrin if this one would be "normal". I was initially furious, but reflected on what his experience as a brother must have been. Be aware</p>	
<p>DLD and its impact on family life</p>	<p>Jotham has always been extremely protective of loan and was a great help when he experienced bullying whilst at secondary school. He also has a great manner with loan and supports him well in "meltdowns". So grateful that he is such a caring and thoughtful big brother.</p>	

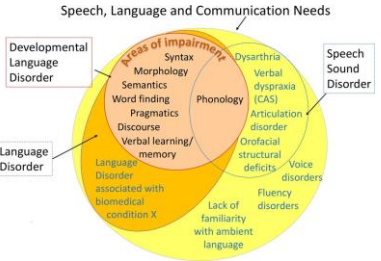



DLD and its impact on family life	After loan's diagnosis I very much wanted to know the end from the beginning. I have learned that each one of my children are different, with differing talents and interests. My advice would be to just enjoy the journey of parenting a child with DLD - easier said than done!	
DLD and its impact on family life	Never underestimate what your child/young person with DLD can achieve. They may have difficulties with language, but they will have plenty of strengths. Just provide opportunities for them to follow their interests and shine!	
The highs and lows	loan wasn't offering much language at the age of 3 and I was unsure about enrolling him for Yamaha keyboard lessons as we had done with Jotham, but the method of teaching suited loan brilliantly and we discovered his superb musical talent.	
The highs and lows	We have always instilled a "can do" attitude and that "mistakes are good because we can learn from them". loan has excelled in creative subjects. This helped him socially at secondary school. Jotham ensured he went to auditions and performed duets with him in school variety shows	https://twitter.com/GivingVoiceUK/status/1448955559252688907?s=20
The highs and lows	The only time I have not had to worry is the 4 years loan attended Victoria Speech and Language Centre with superb specialist teachers and staff who understood and catered to his language and emotional needs, and brilliant S&L therapist/therapy assistant sessions available too.	

The highs and lows	In Year 7 loan auditioned and got the main part of “Oliver” in the school production. All his former teachers and speech and language therapists from the speech and language centre came to support him!	
The highs and lows	When loan was in Year 12, the headteacher noticed he liked to spend his lunchtimes playing the piano, so he had the grand piano moved into the school foyer, which allowed loan to entertain and engage with everyone!	
The highs and lows	Unfortunately, loan experienced bullying at secondary school at various points. It was hard, initially, for him to discern he was being bullied, and this eventually escalated to physical bullying by boys in the year below.	
The highs and lows	I remember loan shouting at me over some English homework he needed to complete telling me I didn’t appreciate how hard it was for him! I don’t suppose I really did!	
The highs and lows	He gained an A in his English Literature GCSE with 100% on the poetry comparison section - we don’t know how he did it, but well done!	
The highs and lows	Despite various training and a good transition, teachers, especially at secondary school, were not as sensitive to loan’s	

	needs, particularly emotional and mental health needs, as would have been liked.	
The highs and lows	Ioan's involvement with the local community arts hub gave him lots of opportunities to build his self-esteem and have some fantastic experiences. This is a "Singing in the Rain" mural he painted on an entrance to the arts centre.	
The highs and lows	Ioan has high anxiety levels, as many with DLD. When we unpicked the root cause, we discovered that he thought that if he worked hard enough he "could cure himself". As you can see from his video he is now reconciled to DLD being a lifelong condition.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXHCjk_FCI4&t=12s
The highs and lows	It's important children and young people understand their diagnosis. Ioan was hugely relieved (resulting in tears) when he was explicitly told he had a language disorder and not a difficulty with speech. Sometimes we use speech and language difficulties too freely! Do you agree?	

Lorraine (@Bammo44): Speech and language therapist specializing in developmental language disorder

The journey from SLI to DLD	I trained at De Montfort University and qualified in 2002, at this time we were introduced to the term 'Specific Language Impairment' or SLI and this was the term I used to diagnose children I felt met the diagnostic criteria, always in partnership with the children's families.	
The journey from SLI to DLD	As my career progressed, I worked in a variety of roles including an independent special school, community clinic, sure start and an online therapy company. I began to carve a special interest in SLI after encountering a large caseload of children with SLI in my community clinic and sure start roles in Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.	
The journey from SLI to DLD	In 2008 I took a locum role at 2 Speech and Language Centres in Burton-Upon-Trent, Staffs. One for KS1 and the other for KS2 children. Children who attended had specific difficulties with language or speech with no underlying learning needs.	
The journey from SLI to DLD	At this time SLTs were still using the term SLI but when I ever mentioned this to anyone outside of SLT, they had never heard of it. Teachers or SENCOs seemed to get this confused with specific learning difficulties.	

The journey from SLI to DLD	In 2017 I was involved in implementing the new diagnostic terminology and criteria for Developmental Language Disorder (DLD). It was met with enthusiasm and excitement from a group of specialist SLTs that I worked with, however we found many barriers to its implementation.	
The journey from SLI to DLD	We trained the community SLTs and we soon realised that recommendations of a period of intervention to assess progress to inform diagnosis could be unrealistic with the sessions that children with language disorders were able to have.	
The journey from SLI to DLD	We largely had positive feedback from the Paediatricians we trained but the prevalence rate of 7.58% that we quoted (Norbury et al, 2016) was met with disbelief from one Paediatrician in particular. We had to discuss how children with DLD may not ever see a Paediatrician.	<p>Developmental Language Disorder affects 7.58% of children aged from 4 years 9 months to 5 years 10 months</p> <p>of which... 63.32% Nonverbal IQ of 85 or above 36.68% Nonverbal IQ of 70 - 84 </p> <p>in addition 2.34% of children aged 4 years 9 months to 5 years 10 months Language disorder associated with another condition (e.g. ASD) </p> 

The journey from SLI to DLD	I feel we are moving forward positively in the increased awareness of DLD in Primary Education settings, although I feel more work has to be done in Secondary Schools and Colleges. The awareness of the general public is also ongoing and on a recent study day in a group of non-SLT health professionals around a quarter had heard of DLD.	<p>DLD Fact 10</p> <p>Developmental Language Disorder is a lifelong condition. Even though it might not be recognised, adults can have Developmental Language Disorder too.</p> <p>Visit R4DLD.org</p>
The journey from SLI to DLD	Have you noticed an increase in public awareness of DLD? We'd also love to hear your stories of how you have increased awareness in your area or with colleagues or friends.	
A search for evidence based practice	I try to be evidence-based in my practice. This means making sure I am assessing children and using therapy approaches that have been proven through rigorous research. At the moment I am 1 year into a 2 year Masters programme in clinical research that has heightened this awareness even more.	
A search for evidence based practice	Having time to search through the evidence and critically appraise what is out there is time-consuming and hard to fit around clinical commitments. I found that I was doing this in my own time, how do other clinical SLTs manage this?	
A search for evidence based practice	When searching for evidence based interventions I've found subscribing to the @TheInformedSLP	https://www.theinformedslp.com/


	summaries invaluable - I get emails delivered to my inbox every month with a summary and critical evaluation of the latest research.	
A search for evidence based practice	The Engage with DLD website is also amazing for DLD related research summaries and also has a database of families and young people impacted by DLD who want to get involved in research. I went along to one of their free workshops last year and I can't recommend it highly enough. @Engage_DLD	https://www.engage-dld.com/
A search for evidence based practice	However, accessing the @TheInformedSLP and @Engage_DLD summaries regularly highlighted even more that there are is not enough research into diagnosis, outcomes, assessment and interventions for the DLD population.	
A search for evidence based practice	Rather than bemoaning the lack of quality research I decided to do something about it and start my own research journey. To cut a long story short I am studying for a MClinRes at the University of Manchester.	
A search for evidence based practice	My dissertation will involve interviewing both specialist and generalist paediatric SLTs in the UK around the theme of barriers and facilitators to DLD diagnosis. My hope is to publish the research and inform the understanding of steps to enable SLTs to utilise the diagnostic criteria.	
Working with children with DLD	I started at what was KS1 Horninglow Speech and Language Centre and @VictoriaSLC, which was for	

	KS2 children in 2008 as a locum SLT and took on the role permanently in 2009. It really was my dream job as an SLT interested in Language Disorders.	
Working with children with DLD	The staff at @VictoriaSLC were and still are incredible, it's very much a child-centred team effort. Not least was the amazing Speech and Language Therapy Assistant, Wendy, who made me feel welcome from the off and is the most dedicated, hard-working person. The kids love her.	
Working with children with DLD	Over the years we have evolved the practice according to the latest evidence base and to make sure we took a personal approach with the children in the centre. No child with #DevLangDis is the same, why should we use the same approaches for all?	
Working with children with DLD	Typically though, we took a managed approach to the varying underlying difficulties that children with #DevLangDis had - Colourful Semantics, Shape Coding, Cued Articulation for phonics, Lego Therapy and a whole class @WordAware group every day. We use @Makaton signing in all lessons.	
Working with children with DLD	I trained the SLT assistant, teachers, teaching assistants and head of the centre @helenecoulthard in Elklan @ElklanTraining - this helped immensely as we had a shared language.	
Working with children with DLD	As part of my role in the centre I gave second opinions to the community SLTs @MPFTPaedSLTs	

	and loved this part of my job. It meant visiting other schools, raising awareness of DLD in mainstream schools and advocating for children to access support.	
Working with children with DLD	From the CATALISE papers there should be no difference in access to services dependent on non-verbal ability. This is something that I have emphasised when putting forward children to attend at the centre but has been met with opposition. Have other SLTs had similar issues?	<p>DLD Fact 6</p> <p>Although developing language is the primary area of difficulty, Developmental Language Disorder can often occur with challenges in other areas of development.</p> <p>Visit RADLD.org</p>
Working with children with DLD	We started getting involved with @RADLDcam DLD awareness day from the outset. One year we decided to make videos with jokes to show how things can go wrong, here's a hilarious example! Please follow @VictoriaSandLC for the rest.	https://twitter.com/VictoriaSandLC/status/1184730361466687488?s=20
Working with children with DLD	Advocating for and raising awareness of SLCN should be part of every SLT role. What we sometimes forget to do, however is raise awareness of the SLCN with the most important people: the children themselves. Luckily @pinchof_SaLT and @AmandaFiner wrote this amazing book to help!!	https://www.dldandme.co.uk/the-book
Working with loan and Imogen	I met loan on my first day at the Speech and Language Centre. He was in Year 2 and still attending his mainstream school 2 days a week.	

	Sometimes part-time placements can work well but loan found this confusing and we decided, together with Imogen that he would cope better coming full-time.	
Working with loan and Imogen	To begin with, the intervention with loan was surrounding his semantics and word-meanings. He had and continues to have difficulties in learning and retaining meanings of new words, particularly if they are more abstract.	
Working with loan and Imogen	loan was always motivated to learn which made his difficulties even more frustrating for him. Even in the supportive environment and amazing support at home loan seemed to struggle with his difficulties when he hit year 4. We worked a lot with Imogen and the family at this point.	
Working with loan and Imogen	We continued to work on loan's understanding and use of vocabulary and sentence structures throughout his time in @VictoriaSandLC. We also focused on some of the pragmatic areas of language. Sometimes loan wasn't aware of social cues and the rules that govern conversations and interactions.	
Working with loan and Imogen	One of my favourite sessions we did with loan was surrounding his use of quite formal language when talking to his friends. We decided to take a very child-centred if somewhat unique approach to this... #ThinkLanguage #ThinkDLD	https://twitter.com/GivingVoiceUK/status/1449011427247747072?s=20

Working with loan and Imogen	We worked hard on transition to secondary school with loan and his family. Luckily we had 3 children transitioning to the same school from the Speech and Language Centre and parents were very proactive in organising meetings so we could work together. (1 of 2)	
Working with loan and Imogen	We organised training for the whole school on Speech, Language and Communication needs and highlighted the 3 children's particular areas of strength and ongoing difficulties. This went some way to help but there were some teething issues with a lack of understanding.	<p>DLD Fact 7</p> <p>Research indicates adolescents with Developmental Language Disorder benefit from specialised support to develop their language skills.</p> <p>Visit R4DLD.org</p>
Working with loan and Imogen	Overall the partnership between the school, parents and loan made the difference. He was able to get the support he needed at the right time but we still have to raise awareness that even though some children like loan have support, DLD is a lifelong condition. (1 of 2)	<p>DLD Fact 1</p> <p>When provided with high quality support and understanding, an individual with Developmental Language Disorder can achieve social, academic and professional success.</p> <p>Visit R4DLD.org</p>

<p>Working with loan and Imogen</p>	<p>It was only through the persistence of Imogen and family with health care and education staff that loan was able to access the diagnosis and support he needed. Others aren't so lucky, as SLTs we need to raise awareness so children with DLD get the support they need. (2 of 2) #ThinkLanguage #ThinkDLD</p>	
<p>Working with loan and Imogen</p>	<p>Finally, before I pass over to @Berryloan - please share this video as far and wide as possible! #ThinkLanguage #ThinkDLD</p>	<p>https://youtu.be/MU1inVSISFo</p>
<p>Working with loan and Imogen</p>	<p>And while I have your attention please consider signing this petition that my colleague @GillianRudd and parents @dharford79 and @SteveHarmon set up to increase funding for vital SLT services. We need 100,000 signatures! https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/587872</p>	

loan (@Berryloan): Individual with developmental language disorder


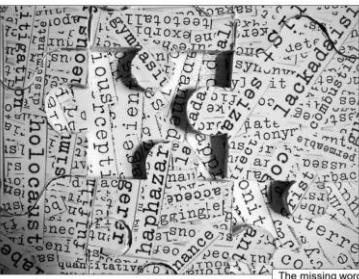
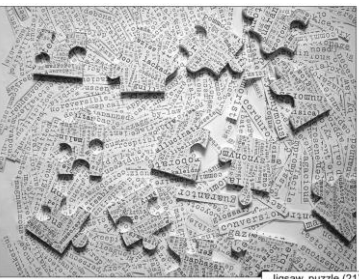
Memorable times on my DLD journey	Quite early on I discovered that going on trips and holidays to historic landmarks, museums and art galleries helped me understand certain concepts and teachings through word association. I love visiting stately homes, and I am a theme park enthusiast!	
Memorable times on my DLD journey	I had private speech and language therapy sessions with Shauna Delaney every Saturday from the age of 5. These sessions helped me understand more about my DLD with lots of social stories to help me realise that “good enough is good enough” and I don’t have to be perfect.	
Memorable times on my DLD journey	Initially my transition into the Speech and Language Centre was quite difficult and a bit of a shock, but I soon found it gave me a safe space to work and grow, and helped me learn in a way I could understand.	
Memorable times on my DLD journey	10 hours of teaching assistant support in high school was not really enough, and many teachers didn’t understand the struggles I had which made school difficult and isolating sometimes.	
Memorable times on my DLD journey	Lego Therapy was fun! I had this in secondary school with speech and language	

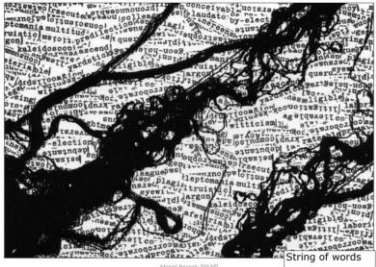

	therapist Fiona Edge. It was through this that I made a really good friend. It helped me improve my communication with others.	
Memorable times on my DLD journey	While in secondary school, I found performance and creative arts a way to express myself. Some opportunities included Christmas and Summer Variety shows, and school productions. I was given a lead role on a few occasions!	https://twitter.com/GivingVoiceUK/status/1449037851325190144?s=20
Memorable times on my DLD journey	I spent a lot of time at the local arts centre doing many creative things - art, performance, choir. This gave me confidence in my abilities and allowed me to make friends with the same interests.	
Memorable times on my DLD journey	I discovered I have perfect pitch and love playing the piano and keyboard. I studied up to Grade 8. I can play by ear and recognise chords I hear on the radio. Mum and Jotham are very jealous of this talent!	
Memorable times on my DLD journey	I enjoy sports like swimming, running and badminton, but find team sports hard. There is too much language, and instructions are given too quickly.	
Memorable times on my DLD journey	My teachers and therapists in the Speech and Language Centre really made lessons accessible with lots of fun subjects outside of English and Maths to help us find our	

	strengths and talents. Mrs Lerigo's art sessions were brilliant!	
Memorable times on my DLD journey	All these experiences gave me a space to find confidence and overcome my worries and anxieties around Developmental Language Disorder. Now I'm in my final year of study at USW in the hopes of working in the Film and Television Industry.	
Stories & Experiences with DLD	I have literal language! We were in a hotel and I asked mum where the bin was. Her response was that it was under the kettle, so I literally picked the kettle up off its base. The bin was actually under the shelf under the kettle! I was 12.	
Stories & Experiences with DLD	I can't always remember words! During a session with Shauna I found myself struggling to find the word 'jewel' - tip of your tongue experience! I got very distressed and had a meltdown! I was 10.	
Stories & Experiences with DLD	I was in a history test just before choosing my GCSEs. One question needed me to know the word "propaganda". I could NOT remember what it meant and got very distressed as I could have no help. Needless to say I chose Geography GCSE!	
Stories & Experiences with DLD	Sometimes I find it hard to focus and follow topics that aren't necessarily of interest or I	

	still don't have the vocabulary for. I tend to "zone out" and the talking is just "bla, bla, bla" noise.	
Stories & Experiences with DLD	Dating with DLD is a minefield! I have difficulty understanding social or romantic cues. I can still dominate conversations, struggle to remember names, but I try strategies using association with places and objects to try and help me remember.	
Stories & Experiences with DLD	Taking lead roles in school productions of "Oliver", "Les Mis" and other shows helped me to overcome "freezing" and "meltdown" with being put on the spot. I gained confidence as I realised I could memorise and recall the information and lines I needed to remember.	
Stories & Experiences with DLD	I can be easily distracted and forget tasks and jobs I need to complete. I know I have little sense of urgency so I can forget jobs such as washing up, ironing and hoovering.	
Open questions/comments for someone diagnosed with DLD	How did you find out you had DLD? What was your first response or feelings towards it?	
Open questions/comments for someone diagnosed with DLD	Did you know much about DLD prior to any diagnosis? If so, how did you learn about it?	

Open questions/comments for someone diagnosed with DLD	I have found that I learn best when I am working practically and when all my senses are engaged rather than just verbal communication. As someone with DLD, what type of learning is best for you?	
Open questions/comments for someone diagnosed with DLD	As someone with DLD, what strategies do you use to help you interact and socialise with others?	
Open questions/comments for someone diagnosed with DLD	I've come to find that I use my talents in music and acting as a way to express myself. What ways have you been able to overcome anxieties around DLD and been able to express your identity?	
Open questions/comments for someone diagnosed with DLD	What is an expectation or stereotype about DLD you were surprised to find was NOT true?	
Open questions/comments for someone diagnosed with DLD	How have you found your friends, family and other loved ones adapting to your needs surrounding DLD? How have they supported you?	
Abigail Beverly artwork and other things that have helped me	Mum showed me some of Abigail Beverly's artwork after seeing her give a talk at an AFASIC conference years ago. I have found they really help me visualise what DLD feels like in a way words can't do justice. Abigail has given me her permission to use her art!	

<p>Abigail Beverly artwork and other things that have helped me</p>	<p>‘Insurmountable edifice of words’ - Living with DLD can feel like a dam made up of words in my mind making it difficult for words and well constructed language to flow. I used to think it was a tall tower as it felt overwhelming and made me feel lesser.</p>	 <p>Insurmountable edifice of words</p>
<p>Abigail Beverly artwork and other things that have helped me</p>	<p>‘The Missing Word’ - You know that feeling of tip of your tongue where you want to use a certain word for something very simple yet you can’t seem to remember it? DLD can be like missing a small but vital piece to a puzzle you worked hard on putting together.</p>	 <p>The missing word</p>
<p>Abigail Beverly artwork and other things that have helped me</p>	<p>‘Jigsaw, Puzzle’ - Other times, having DLD means I mix up my words without realising or using the correct words without knowing what they mean within the context of a conversation, similar to mixing up puzzle pieces into places where it doesn’t fit.</p>	 <p>Jigsaw, puzzle (21)</p>

<p>Abigail Beverly artwork and other things that have helped me</p>	<p>‘String of Words’ - This piece was harder for me to interpret, but as I started thinking, I realised that there are occasions where I, and others with DLD, will say something that makes sense to us, but sounds like nonsense or gibberish to others, like a random string of words.</p>	
<p>Abigail Beverly artwork and other things that have helped me</p>	<p>‘Help! I’m sinking in words (The Vortex)’ - For someone with DLD, having to process and understand words and language daily can feel like sinking into a vortex of words until at some point you end up ‘zoning out’. Language just needs to be broken down to be understood!</p>	

This Twitter Takeover is also available in Wakelet form: https://wke.lt/w/s/x_dJ1b

For further information on Developmental Language Disorder, please visit:

- Afasic website: <https://afasic.org.uk/>
- I CAN's free webinars and guide to DLD: <https://ican.org.uk/educational-support-for-children-with-developmental-language-disorder-dld/>
- NAPLIC's website: <https://www.naplic.org.uk/>
- RCSLT's dedicated DLD pages: <https://www.rcslt.org/speech-and-language-therapy/clinical-information/developmental-language-disorder/>

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