RCSLT

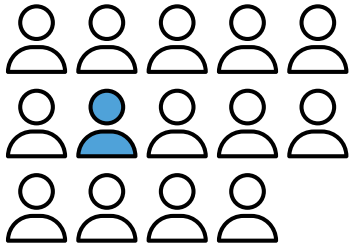## DLD Questions
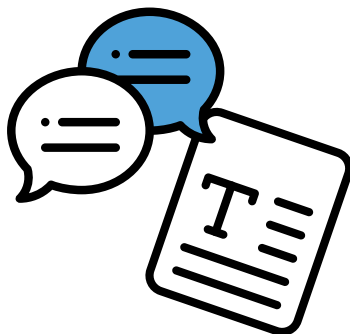
Top 10 important questions for research on Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

Easy read version

What is the project about?

About **1** in **14** people have **DLD** (Developmental Language Disorder).

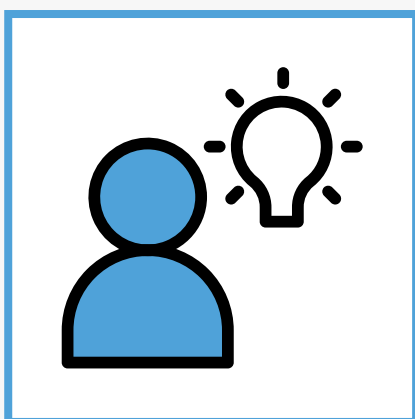DLD can make it **hard to understand** and **use spoken** or **written language**.

DLD can affect people's **friendships**, **relationships** and **mental health**.
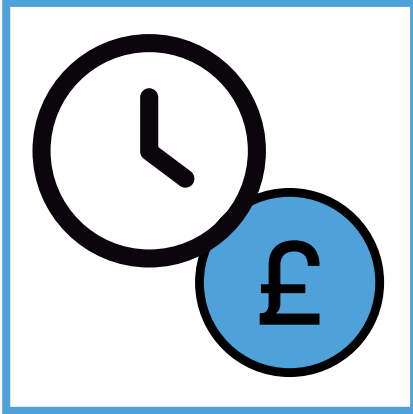
Even though DLD is **very common**, there is **not** enough **public awareness**, **support** or **funding** to **help** children and adults with DLD.
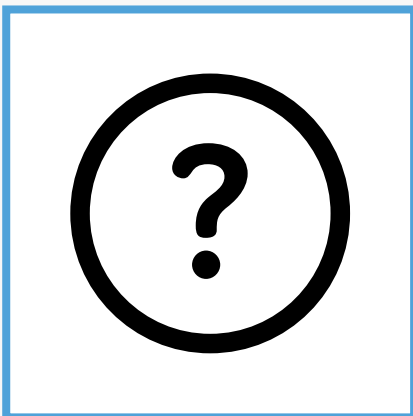
We want to **find out more about DLD** by doing research. Research means **asking questions** to get clear information.
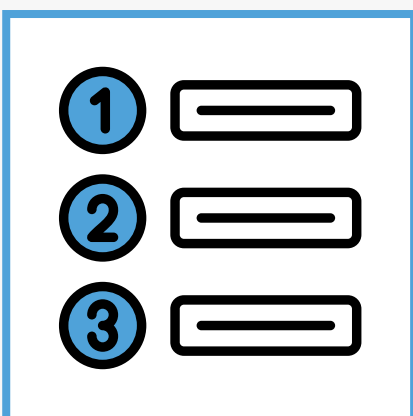
Research is important because it can **help improve understanding** and **support** for people with DLD.

But **research** takes **time** and **money**.

In this project, we asked **people with DLD**, **families** and **professionals** for their **most important DLD questions**.
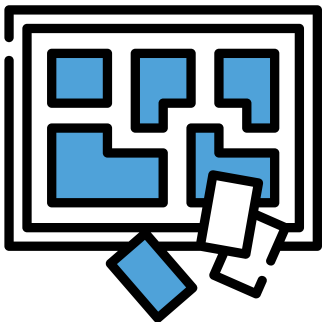
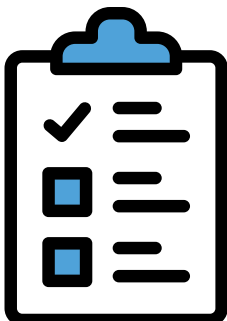These are called **research priorities**.
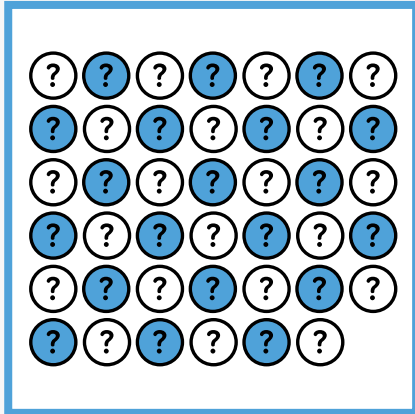
How did this project work?

119 people filled in an **online questionnaire**. They suggested **476** questions.
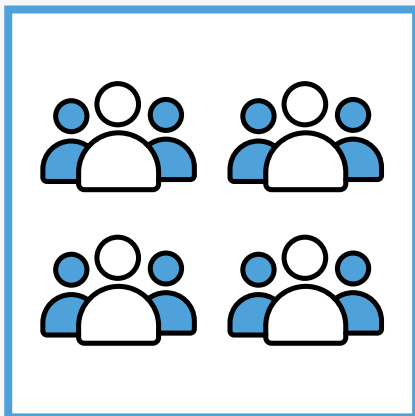
36 children and **4 adults** with **DLD** completed a **Talking Mat**™ to **share** their **views** and **priorities** for **DLD research**.

A team of **researchers checked** which questions **could be answered** by **research**.
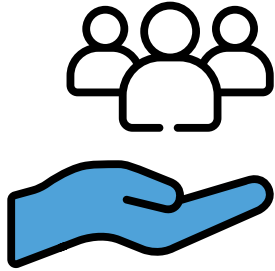
The researchers **joined together** lots of similar **questions**.
This gave us a **list** of **34 questions**.

We set up **four project groups**.

Group 1 focused on:
Diagnosis
(finding out if someone has DLD).
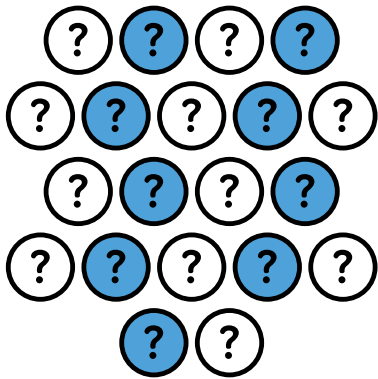
Group 2 focused on:
Intervention and support.

Group 3 focused on:
Schools and **workplaces**.

Group 4 focused on:
Independence for
people with DLD.

Each group chose their **Top 5** DLD questions.

This gave us **20 questions** in total.

We held a **workshop** in London to choose our **final Top 10** DLD questions
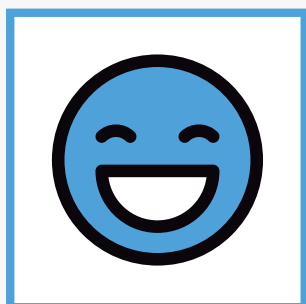
The Top 10 questions were...

=1

How can we make it easy for people with DLD to **get a diagnosis**? How can we **best support them** before, during and after a diagnosis?

=1

What **training** do education staff need so they can **help people with DLD learn** and have a **better time in schools, colleges and universities**?

3

What can schools do to make sure children with DLD **do well at school**, and **grow into adults** who can find **good jobs**, and **live healthy and happy lives**?
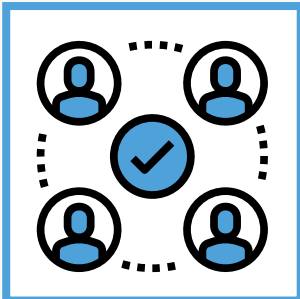
4

What are the **best DLD interventions** that lead to **good and important outcomes** that last? Who can best **deliver** the intervention?

5

What do people with DLD need to have **good friendships and relationships**, and **not feel lonely**?

6

How can **different people best support people with DLD**? How can we best **help** them to do this?

7

How can **people with DLD** be helped to **get and keep jobs**?
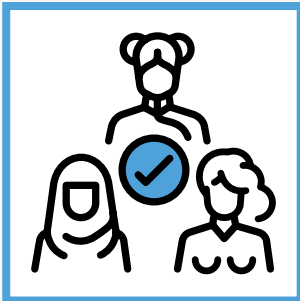
8

What is it like for people with DLD to **get support** from the **disability/social care** system?
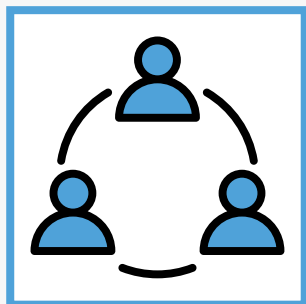
9

How can families, education staff and health professionals **identify signs of DLD** in children and young people to support **early diagnosis**?

10

How does help and support need to **vary** depending on a person's **age**, **background**, **language abilities** and **other condition**s?

What this means for people with DLD

Now that we have the **Top 10 questions**, we can **share** these with **researchers**, **funders** (people who pay for research) and the **DLD community**.
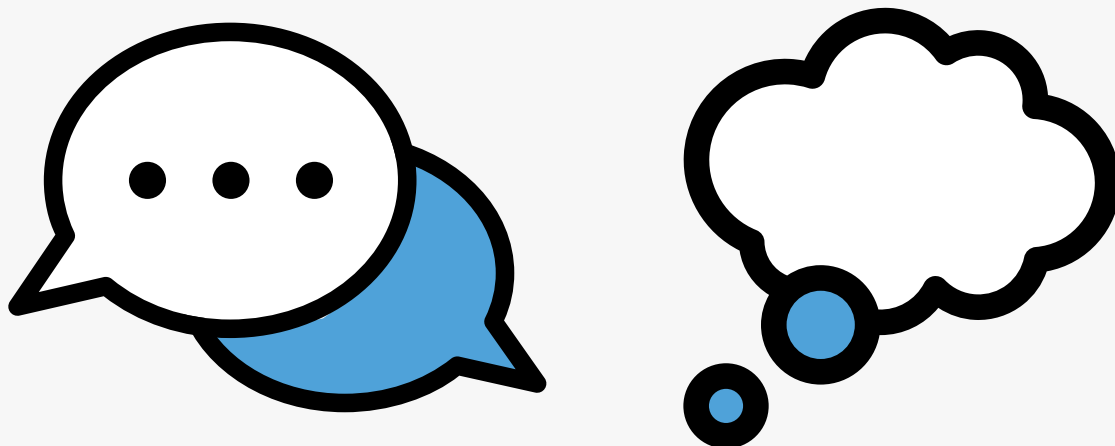
These **questions** will **help researchers** decide: **what** do we need to **find out next**?

The **questions** will also **help funders** decide **which research** to **pay** for.

We hope that **research** into the **Top 10 questions** will help **increase understanding** and **support** for **people with DLD**.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Lucy Hughes:

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