



Engage with
Developmental
Language
Disorder



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE
Faculty of Education



E-DLD newsletter: **Summer edition**

E-DLD Updates



We now have **over 100 members** (112 families and 12 adults)!

-Average age of children: 8.8, average age of adult: 37.2

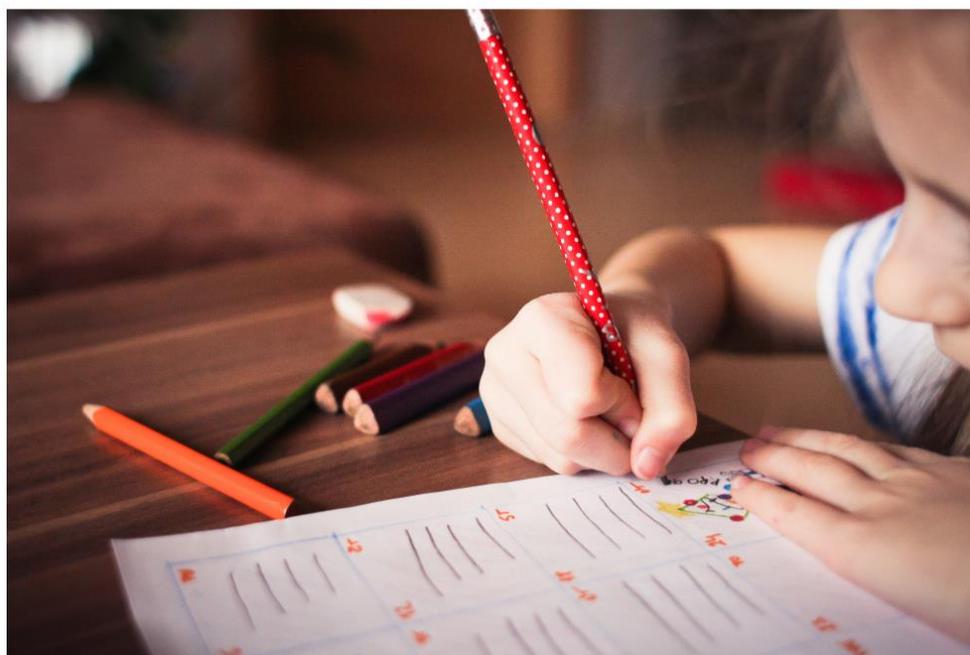
-75% of members are from UK, 25% are from 11 different countries



We have advertised **10 research studies!**



We are now offering a **£20 voucher price draw** each month for all E-DLD members who complete the yearly survey! The yearly survey gives us really important data, so please do find time to take part!

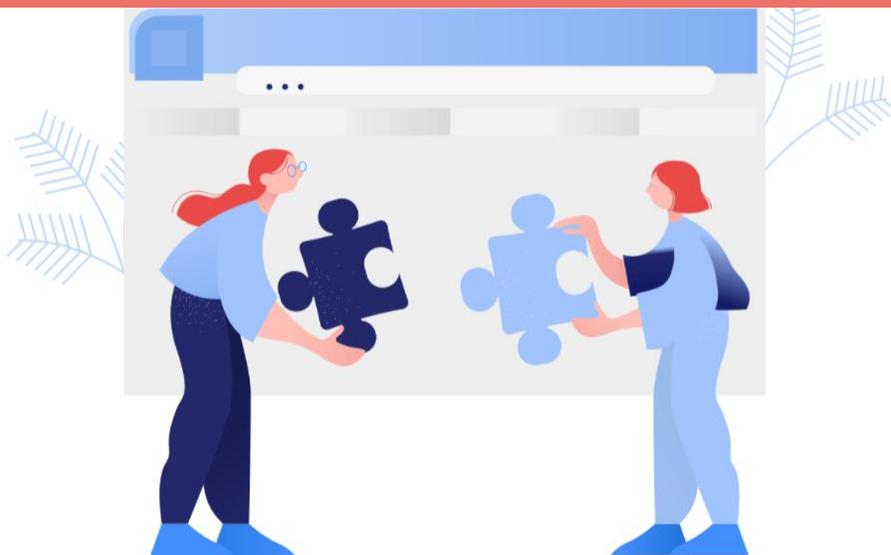


Upcoming events:



- **E-DLD summer event: Q&A session**
 - This event will allow parents of children with DLD and adults with DLD to ask questions about the Engage with DLD project and about DLD more generally. The event will be held on **15th July, 7pm**, hosted by all three E-DLD founders.
 - Sign up here:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/engage-with-dld-e-dld-32985137929>

E-DLD May Event – DLD Together hosted by Nicola Botting, Stephen Parsons and Linda Lascelles 'DLD Together' was discussed at this event. This project is a joint initiative by two UK charities, Afasic and NAPLIC. The aim of 'DLD Together' is to bring families together to learn more about DLD and how it applies to their child. It happens via Zoom over seven weekly evening sessions. The groups have been very well received and families find learning in depth about DLD and connecting with other families the most valuable aspects. Being online makes it easier as there are no childcare and travel issues for families. We have started training professionals who are now setting up the groups in their local areas. In conjunction with families, we are also developing a secondary version of the course. We hope over time that families who attend these courses will form the backbone of local support networks for families with DLD. If you are interested in finding out more or in joining a future group please email info@afasic.org.uk



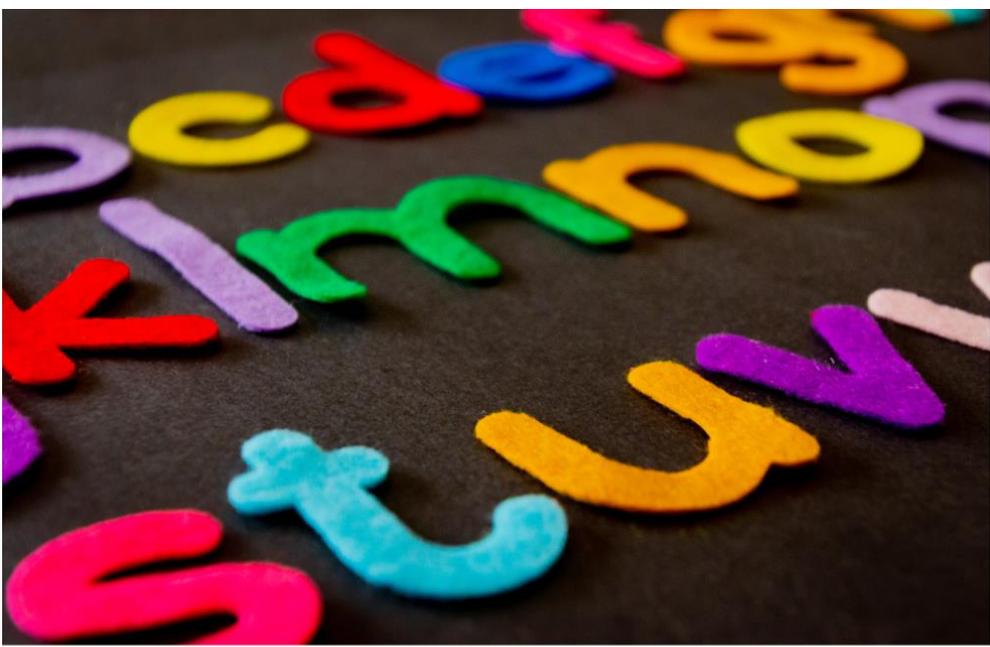
Research Overview – Dr Hannah Hobson

Children with language needs are overrepresented in mental health settings and at greater risk of poor mental health outcomes. Using interviews, we investigated the experiences of parents who had concerns about their children's mental health, focusing particularly on children with DLD.

Of the parents we interviewed, we had a range of experiences, with positive and negative outcomes in terms of their children's mental health and wellbeing. We noted several themes from these interviews:

- **The effects of language problems on the presentation and detection of mental health problems:** parents were concerned about children's abilities to describe when they were feeling distressed, or when distressing events happened.
- **The role of the school environment in managing or exacerbating mental health problems.**
- **The role of key professionals,** especially their awareness about children's language needs: for example, the use of words or phrases that were not accessible to the children.
- **Mainstream approaches to mental health may not work best for children with language needs:** children with DLD may not find a standard conversation with a mental health practitioner easy. Alternative and flexible provision (for example doing an activity alongside a practitioner) worked better.
- **The role of parents, and the impact on parents themselves:** Parents acted as translators and advocates for their children, and spent time themselves working with their children on developing their emotional literacy. For some parents, repeated poor experiences led to a breakdown in trust between them and their child's school and or services like CAMHS.

We plan to publish our findings and will release a version of our final paper that everyone can access and share. We hope our findings support further research and changes in clinical and educational practice. Please feel free to get in touch with hannah.hobson@york.ac.uk with any questions or comments.



In conversation with...

Jason Chan –
member of the E-DLD team

Q: Who are you?

A: I am a placement student from the University of Bath.

Q: What is your role in the E-DLD team?

A: My main role is to manage the E-DLD database, such as monitoring signups. I am also responsible for writing the research summaries and newsletters, including the one you are reading!

Q: What will you do next?

A: I'll return to my studies while working on my dissertation study, which will be promoted through E-DLD. I hope that I can help children with special education needs and disabilities after I complete my studies.

Open-access Publications:

[SLT experiences in diagnosis and assessing children with DLD](#)

[Parent and Teacher views of peer relationships in children with Language Disorders](#)

[Parent-Child Interaction Therapy and improvements in children with DLD](#)

Summary for the above publications can be found on [our website](#)





Follow us on Twitter - @Engage_DLD

We let everyone know of our new research summaries when they come out - we aim for a summary each week!

Feel alone in supporting your child with DLD?

Consider joining the "Developmental Language Disorder (formerly SLI) Support" group on Facebook. This is a private group for people affected by a DLD diagnosis, including adults with DLD and parents like you!

Have you heard of The DLD Project?

They have collected a load of evidence-based information and resources – check it out here: <https://thedldproject.com>

