

## E-DLD newsletter: **Spring edition**

### Updates on the E-DLD Project!

- Number of E-DLD members: **81**
- Adult E-DLD members: **4**
- Number of research advertised: **6**
- Response rate of yearly survey: **33%**



Thank you for your support! Our number of members and research advertised is increasing steadily. Please help us increase our yearly survey response rate as well!



### Upcoming events:



- **E-DLD event in May – DLD Together**
  - 'DLD Together' is a joint project by Afasic and NAPLIC, which brings small groups of parents together via Zoom to meet each other and learn about how DLD impacts on their child. The event will be held on **12th May, 7pm**. We will be having Stephen Parsons, the chairperson of NAPLIC, as our guest to discuss the DLD Together project.
- **DLD Awareness Day 2021 – Date confirmed**
  - RADLD has announced the date for DLD Awareness Day 2021: **Friday, 15 October**. Check out [RADLD's website](#) for further updates.

## E-DLD Book Reading Event

In February we held our first members-only event on DLD and book reading. A total of 11 E-DLD members came. We outlined research findings on reading skills in people with DLD and explained why reading can be especially difficult for people with DLD.

It was wonderful to meet some of our E-DLD members! There was a great discussion about strategies that have helped people with DLD to read and to enjoy books. Those who came say that they appreciated the opportunity to share their experiences and they gained comfort knowing that other people were affected by similar circumstances.

We're using your feedback from this event to plan a new programme of events for 2021-2022. We can't wait to meet more of our E-DLD members in the coming months!



### Research Overview – Ashley Blake

#### Who am I?

I am a PhD Researcher at the University of Birmingham investigating individual differences in children's language development. I am part of a large team led by Professor Ewa Dąbrowska. As a group we research different aspects of first and second language acquisition and attainment.

#### What is my research about?

We believe that language is a complex, cognitive skill and my research explores the relationship between cognitive skill learning and language development. In particular, I am interested in finding out how the speed of automatization predicts differences in children's language ability, both in children with and without language difficulties, such as DLD.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all sessions are now conducted online via Zoom. Children take part in a variety of tasks over three research sessions, which include the Tower of Hanoi puzzle and various language and cognitive tasks. Children usually enjoy the different activities, especially the puzzle!

#### Expected results

I look forward to sharing the outcome of my study with the E-DLD group as soon as my research study is complete. I am still inviting children with developmental language disorder (aged 7-9 years) to participate, so if you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have really enjoyed meeting children all over the country and am very grateful for all the families that have generously given their time to take part in my research study. We hope that our research findings will help us to develop supportive therapies for children with DLD.

Ashley's contact - Twitter: @ashleyrblake      email: A.R.Blake@bham.ac.uk



## *In conversation with...*

**Dr Vanessa Lloyd-Esenkaya –  
member of the E-DLD team**

**Q: Who are you?**

**A:** I am post-doctoral researcher in Developmental Psychology. I recently completed a PhD looking at the social side of DLD.

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

**A:** The aim of my 3-month role is to spread the word about E-DLD. I am running events, making documents for policymakers, and working behind the scenes on our website.

**Q: What will you do next?**

**A:** I am passionate about supporting families affected by communication difficulties. I will soon start training in Speech and Language Therapy, enabling me to continue this work as a clinician.

## Open-access Publication:

Public Awareness of DLD  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jc-omdis.2020.106057>

Family Involvement and  
School Adjustment  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijer-ph17061949>

Predicting Reading Outcome  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2396941520979857>

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 2 per 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>

