

## E-DLD Newsletter: Spring Edition

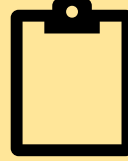
### E-DLD in numbers



436 members (351 parents of children, 85 individuals over 16). Average age: 9.5 years for children and 37.3 years for adults



70% are from the UK, 30% are from 23 other countries.

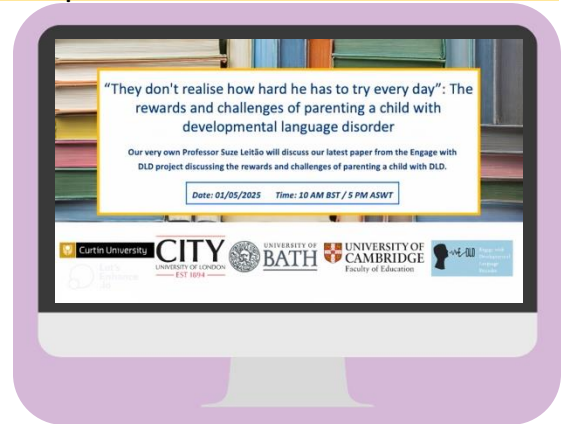


63.7% have completed the yearly survey. We offer a monthly £20 voucher prize draw for E-DLD members who complete it!



67 research studies have been advertised

### Upcoming E-DLD Event:



## Rewards and Challenges of parenting a child with DLD

**May 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 AM BST / 5PM AWST**

Professor Suze Leitão will lead a discussion about her latest paper from the Engage with DLD project *“They don't realise how hard he has to try every day”: The rewards and challenges of parenting a child with developmental language disorder.*

The paper focuses on the rewards and challenges of parenting a child with DLD. She will be joined by other core E-DLD team members.

Please sign up [here!](#)



***New update!***

## **New Grant of 876,000 pounds for our STAND screening tool to indentify Undiagnosed DLD**

The Engage with DLD team is thrilled to announce that we have received a grant from the Economic and Social Research Council for about £876,000 to validate our Screening Tool for Adults with Non-Diagnosed DLD (STAND).

This screening tool initially came about after a potential adult E-DLD member emailed to say they thought they had DLD, but they didn't have an official diagnosis. We will now conduct three years of study to both validate and confirm the screening tool does indeed identify DLD. We will then look at identify the rates of undiagnosed DLD in adult students, both at universities and at FE colleges. We will then look at the needs of students with DLD and how they needs can be met by their disability services. We will then create guidance toolkits to help support both adults with DLD as well guidance documents to help disability services best support students with DLD.

We hope this project will be the first step towards rolling this screening tool out in different context. Ideas for future research include employment context, sixth form, and forensic settings.



## Current Research Projects



### Project 1:

The Engage with DLD team received an £876,000 ESRC grant to validate the STAND screening tool for undiagnosed DLD in adult students. Over three years, the project will assess its effectiveness, determine prevalence, and develop support toolkits for students and disability services.

### Project 2:

We will soon collect data via Prolific to create a comparison sample for our growing E-DLD databases. This includes 100 parents per age group (3-4, 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-15 years), focusing on children without language difficulties, using the same data and yearly surveys as E-DLD parents.

### Project 3:

Adults with DLD face greater challenges engaging with primary healthcare professionals. We will validate a new questionnaire on their experiences with GPs and nurses, comparing responses between adults with and without DLD.

### Project 4:

We will analyse free-text responses from our questionnaire on engagement with mental healthcare and therapy. This qualitative data will help identify differences in experiences between adults with and without DLD.

### Project 5:

This study will validate the STAND screening tool by comparing its results with CELF-5 and CC-SR in University of Bath undergraduates. It will also examine the impact of bilingualism to assess STAND's effectiveness in detecting undiagnosed DLD in both monolingual and bilingual adults

### Project 6:

This project evaluates the face validity of the STAND screening tool by collecting feedback from adults with DLD on question content, clarity, and accessibility. Thematic analysis will guide refinements to make STAND clearer and more inclusive.





## Our Website Got a Makeover!

We're thrilled to introduce our newly redesigned website, now with a fresh look and even more valuable resources!

### What's New?

#### New Sections:

"I am a Researcher" – New guidelines for researchers to share their work with the DLD community.

"Current Research Projects" - Stay updated on our ongoing research studies.

#### More User-Friendly Design

Navigating our site is now easier than ever, making it simple to find the information you need.

#### Up-to-Date Content

We're committed to keeping you informed with the latest research and community updates.

With a more engaging and accessible platform, we aim to connect even more parents and adults with DLD as well as researchers and professionals in the field.

Check out our new website today and be part of our growing community!

## *In Conversation with... Alexia Avraam*

### **Question: Who are you?**

#### **Answer:**

I am currently finishing my master in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology at Utrecht University. I have a background in clinical work and research focused on learning difficulties. I have hands-on experience supporting individuals with MID, autism, and dyslexia.

### **Question: How did you get involved with E-DLD?**

#### **Answer:**

My passion for learning difficulties is deeply personal—I have dyslexia, which made academics a constant challenge. Growing up, dyslexia was not widely accepted, and the misconception that struggling students “just weren’t trying enough” left me without support. Diagnosed in middle school, I faced labels rather than help, reinforcing the barriers I had to overcome.



Now, I am committed to raising awareness of the challenges faced by individuals with DLD and advocating for better support systems.

### **Question: Can you tell us about your current research?**

#### **Answer:**

We will soon collect data via Prolific to build a comparison sample for our expanding E-DLD database. Targeting 100 parents per age group (3-15 years), we aim to recruit those with children without language difficulties, gathering the same data as E-DLD parents at sign-up and in annual surveys.





## 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>

## Follow us on our social media:



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