

Developmental Language Disorders: key red flags



Developmental Language Disorder is when a child or adult has significant problems understanding and/or using language to communicate with others.

No babbling or gestures.
Not responding to speech
or other sounds.
Makes few attempts to
communicate.

**AGES
1-2**



**AGES
2-3**

Little interaction.
Fewer than 50 words.
Does not respond to speech.
Language appears to have stalled or gone
backwards.

Speaks in two-word sentences.
Does not understand simple
commands (e.g. "Get your shoes").
Not easily understood by close relatives.

**AGES
3-4**



**AGES
4-5**

Does not understand speech.
Not understood by strangers.
Close relatives understand <50% of speech.
Speaks in two-three word sentences.

Not understood by strangers.
Can't tell or re-tell a coherent story.
Can't understand what is read to them.
Difficulty following instructions.
Talks a lot, but poor conversation skills.
Interprets things literally, often 'missing the point'.

**AGE
5+**



Principal sources: Bishop, D.V.M., Snowling, M.J., Thompson, P., & Greenhalgh, T. (2016). CATALISE: A Multinational and Multidisciplinary Delphi Consensus Study: Identifying Language Impairments in Children. PLoS One, 11(7). Prelock, P.A., Hutchins, T., Glasco, F.R. (2008). Speech Language Impairment: How to identify the Most Common and Least Diagnosed Disability of Childhood. Medscape Journal of Medicine, 10(8), 136. Check out www.radld.org for lots of free information about Developmental Language Disorder and how to get help.

For more information visit www.RADLD.com (Raising Awareness of DLD)