

SLCN NEWSLETTER

BDCFT's Children's Speech and Language Therapy team
Summer Term 2024 newsletter

In this edition:

- Celebrate DLD awareness day.
- We signpost to resources to support Autistic children.
- How you can access our advice line.
- Sharing success of student placements.



The BDCFT Children's Speech and Language Therapy team would like to say a huge **thank you** to all our colleagues in settings and schools who have worked so hard with us this last academic year supporting SLCN in your settings. We hope you have a wonderful summer break!



DLD SUPPORT



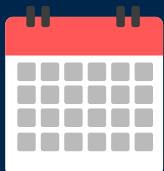
Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is a disorder that makes using and understanding language difficult. It can cause academic and/or social and emotional difficulties. Please see our updated DLD website page for a range of resources and links to support children, their families and staff with supporting children with DLD: <https://www.bdct.nhs.uk/developmental-language-disorder/>



Free parent training: We are currently delivering free training for parents of children diagnosed with DLD called 'DLD Together'. This seven week course is held over Microsoft Teams on a weekday evening. Parents can contact jane.glover@bdct.nhs.uk for more information, or to register interest for future sessions.



DLD AWARENESS DAY | FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER



Imagine making a new friend, learning a new subject, or negotiating yourself out of a tough spot if your ability to use or understand language were a life-long challenge. On average **2 students in every class of 30** have a neurodevelopmental condition called Developmental Language Disorder or DLD. **Friday 18th of October 2024** is DLD Awareness Day and so we're calling on settings across Bradford to #speakupforDLD.

DLD Awareness Day is celebrated internationally each year. It's a day for families, therapists, schools and the community to come together and support each other. The event aims to raise awareness and understanding in the community about Developmental Language Disorders. Purple and Yellow are the official colours for DLD Awareness Day.



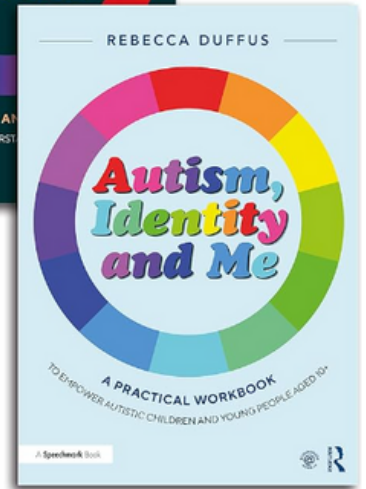
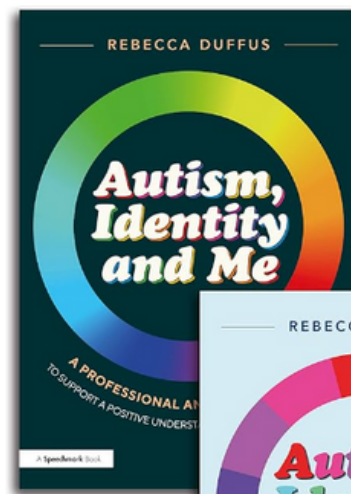
For ideas on how your school could get involved with #DLDday on 18th October watch for updates here: <https://radld.org/dld-awareness-day/resources-media-ideas/> and other ideas [here](#).



RESOURCE OF THE TERM

Autism, Identity and Me: A Practical Workbook and Professional Guide to Empower Autistic Children and Young People Aged 10+. The programme was developed by Rebecca Duffus, an Advisory Teacher with a special interest in autism. It was developed in collaboration with autistic individuals.

The resource (a workbook and a guidebook) is based on the evidence that children and young people who have a positive understanding of their autistic identity have higher self-esteem and wellbeing as adults. It uses a social model interpretation of autism to help children and young people to understand their diagnosis. We advise that this resource is used sensitively, by someone who knows the student well and that parents are aware and happy for their child to work with school on this programme. See our [user guide](#) for this resource on our website.

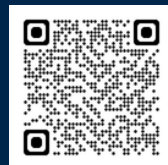


ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

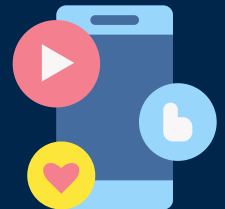
[Autism Understood](#) is a website about autism for autistic young people. It encourages a positive understanding of autism.



Neurobears is a course about the autistic experience. It has been created by autistic adults in collaboration with autistic young people: [Pandas \(pandasonline.org\)](#).



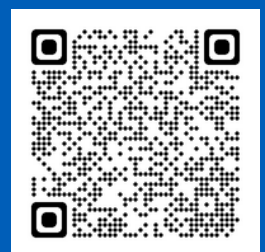
If you use social media, you can find lots more positive resources about autism by searching using **#actuallyautistic**



STRATEGY SPOTLIGHT

Brilliant visual support spotted at Midland Road Nursery. Thanks Rabia (teaching assistant) for creating this and for letting us capture your resources! Objects of Reference is a great tool to support children and people in the early stages of communication development. [Read tips](#) on our website, on how to get started using Objects of Reference and other visual support in your setting.

This term we launched our new virtual training session: "Visuals to support communication - Objects of Reference and now/next". Speak with your school's link Speech and Language Therapist to access the booking link.





COMMUNICATION STAR AWARD

Our "Communication Star" award aims to recognise and celebrate great practice happening with our colleagues in education, in supporting SLCN within our schools. This award recognises outstanding practices that make a difference in the lives of our students with SLCN. Whether it's innovative, inclusive teaching methods, dedicated support staff, or collaborative approaches, we want to honor those who go above and beyond.



Summer Term 2024 Communication Star:

Congratulations to
Andrea Conway

Speech and Language Teaching Assistant,
Farfield Primary School

Andrea was nominated by Brigid Stoney (Speech and Language Therapist): "Andrea has many years of experience working with a range of children with speech, language and communication needs. She carries out lots of interventions independently and knows when to move children on to the next stage and when to speak to me for the next step. Often, I just need to give her a target and she will already have the resources and be able to get started straight away. Andrea carries out the Wellcomm screening and interventions independently. She makes excellent observations of the children, often giving me a heads up about which children might need more specific support. Pupils love working with Andrea, which is clear from the number of children who ask, "Are you seeing me today?" when they see her around school!" Thank you for all your hard work and support Andrea! Well done for being our Summer Term's Communication Star!

If you would like to nominate a member of your team for their dedication supporting SLCN, email speechandlanguagetherapy@bdct.nhs.uk with their name, role, setting and your reason for nominating them.



CPD OPPORTUNITY

Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust and Leeds Trinity University are jointly running an innovative, practice-based Post-Graduate Level 7 certificate in Advanced Practice in Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN). This programme has been uniquely designed for working education and 3rd sector practitioners. Please scan QR code for more information.



Applicants must either have an undergraduate degree, OR, equivalent work-based experience. Therefore, this course is aimed at SENCOs, Senior Leadership team, Higher Level Teaching Assistants and Speech and Language Therapy Assistants. If you/your settings have any questions about the course, please contact Amelia Wesley-Holley, Programme Leader and Speech and Language Therapist - a.wesley-holley@leedstrinity.ac.uk .





COMMUNICATION CHAMPIONS NETWORK



"Communication Champions Network," is a collaborative initiative aimed at strengthening support for speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN) in our schools. Our goal is to create and empower a community of teaching assistants, support staff, teachers and SENCOs who are passionate about supporting children's communication.



There will be opportunities to share ideas, resources and good practice and receive additional training around supporting SLCN. If you are interested in signing up to receive more information, please complete this 5 minute survey.



ADVICE LINES

If you need advice on how to support children's speech, language or communication skills in your setting, you can book a session to speak with one of our Specialist Speech and Language Therapists. We can support you with:

- Developing your knowledge on when and how to refer a child into the Speech and Language Therapy service.
- Recommending resources to identify which children may need support with their speech, language, and communication (SLCN) needs & next steps with supporting SLCN in settings.

Please note, these calls are for general information and advice only. Calls are bookable in 25-minute slots. If you would like to discuss any children already known to our service, please call our Admin Team on 01274 221166. You can access the bookings page to book an Advice Line call by scanning the QR code:



STUDENT SALT SUPPORT

Thank you Bradford Forster Academy, Grove House Primary and Byron Primary for helping host 4 final year SALT students from Leeds Beckett University this term. We received such positive feedback from the students about their placements. Providing high quality experiences for the future SALT workforce is something we have been working hard to achieve. Working closely with our colleagues in education is paramount to achieving outcomes for our children and young people, so we are grateful for your support with welcoming our student SALTs into your settings and showcasing this. If you are interested in hosting students in your setting for 2024/25 academic year (who would be under SALT supervision and guidance) please speak with your link therapist.



FEEDBACK

We need and highly value your feedback regarding our service. Please complete this quick [survey](#). You can also share feedback at any time, by emailing us below.



Email: Speechandlanguagetherapy@bdct.nhs.uk



Website: <https://www.bdct.nhs.uk/services/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy/>



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