

Diagnostic Decisions: Diagnostic Statements for Developmental Language Disorder

Diagnostic Scenario

¹Child referred to SLP/SALT due to concerns about (1) speech, language, or communication, (2) behavioural or psychiatric difficulties, (3) extreme departure from typical development before age 5, (4) persistent problems using or understanding language beyond age 5 (despite adequate opportunities)

SLP/SALT assessment results indicate persistent language disorder with a significant impact on everyday social interactions or educational progress that is not associated with a biomedical condition²

Provide DLD diagnosis

Report statements suggestions

(**These are not prescriptive statements! These are potential statements that might be used or adapted in reports)

The assessment results indicate that {child} has a Developmental Language Disorder (DLD).

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is a neurodevelopmental condition affecting approximately 7% of the population. The cause of DLD is generally unknown. DLD may impact behaviour, attention, academic achievement, and peer relationships. More information about DLD including links to helpful resources is available on the attached information sheet.

A Developmental Language Disorder presents differently across individuals. {Child's} language disorder is characterized by [describe relevant strengths & weaknesses]

A diagnosis of a condition in no way changes who {child} is as a person. It simply describes a cluster of observable behaviours and may help {child} and those around him/her better understand and support him/her as an individual.

A single assessment should not be considered in isolation. Further assessment may be required [optional: indicate time period] to monitor {child's} response to intervention or review current diagnosis.

Diagnostic Decision

Possible Diagnostic Statement

Report Wording:
Possible Additional Statements