

Diagnostic Decisions: DLD vs. Language Disorder Associated with [X]

Speech-language pathologists / therapists may be working as part of a formal multidisciplinary team, or as an informal team with colleagues and families around particular cases. In an educational setting, team members may include child, parent, general educator, special educator, speech-language pathologist/therapist, other allied health professionals, etc.

Diagnostic Scenario

Child referred to SLP/SALT services (see DLD Diagnostics v. 1)
SLP/SALT assessment results consistent with Language Disorder

No concerns by any team member regarding biomedical conditions¹

Concerns raised by team members regarding a biomedical condition¹

Diagnostic Decision

Provide DLD diagnosis

Assessment of biomedical condition will **NOT** occur in timely fashion

Provide provisional DLD diagnosis

Assessment of biomedical condition will occur soon

Provide diagnosis consistent with outcome of biomedical assessment

Report Wording:
Possible Diagnostic Statement

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

The assessment results indicate that {child} has a Developmental Language Disorder. {Child} may undergo additional neurodevelopmental assessments in the future. If given an alternative diagnosis known to have an associated language disorder, the term, Language Disorder associated with that condition would be recommended (based on the current assessment).

{Child} was diagnosed with [biomedical condition] in {Specialists' name's} report dated {report date}. Results of the speech and language assessment indicate that {child} has a Language Disorder associated with [biomedical condition].

Possible Additional Statements

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 language disorder associated with {biomedical condition} may impact behaviour, attention, and academic achievement. More information about language disorders is available on the attached information sheet.

More 'possible additional statements' are suggested in DLD Diagnostics v. 1

Notes: 1 – concerns regarding cognitive or intellectual development require further investigation and would be expected to impact language development