



# The current evidence base for school-aged children with Developmental Language Disorder

Course leader: Dr Susan Ebbels

Location: Moor House School, Hurst Green, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9AQ

This course aims to update Speech and Language Therapists (and other interested professionals) on the current evidence base for intervention for school-aged children with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD).

It will focus predominantly on comprehension and production at the word (vocabulary and word-finding), sentence (sentence construction and comprehension of sentences) and narrative level. It does not focus on articulation, phonology, literacy, phonological awareness, pragmatics or social skills.

Attendees will learn about how to appraise research evidence and a traffic light colour-coding system will be used throughout so that attendees can see at a glance the reliability of each piece of evidence mentioned. Background theory concerning how children learn language (and why some children may have difficulties) will be included.

At the sentence level, attendees will learn about studies which contrast different methods and agents of delivery of intervention to children with developmental language disorder (where the details of the actual intervention approach not main focus). They will then learn about the evidence for different intervention approaches including grammar facilitation approaches, metalinguistic approaches and acoustically modified speech. At the word level, attendees will learn about studies aiming to improve word learning and vocabulary and also intervention for word finding difficulties.

Throughout the day, attendees will be asked to reflect on their own practice in the light of the evidence presented and what changes they may wish to make. Traffic-light colour-coded summaries are provided at the end of each section which aim to provide a quick reference for future use. A comprehensive reference list will also be provided for those who wish to follow up any of the studies discussed.

This course costs £175 per person and will be limited to 30 attendees. It takes place in the conference room at Moor House School in Surrey, within walking distance of Hurst Green station (40 mins from London Victoria) and includes a buffet lunch, tea and coffee.