

TOTAL COMMUNICATION THERAPY

OPENING MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Colleagues,

We trust have you've had a wonderful New Year. Here's wishing you a happy and blessed 2020!

At Total Communication, we are taking this opportunity to announce to you the following development. We have relocated to 10 Winstedt Road, #02-01, Singapore 227977. We are loving our brand new new surroundings. Overleaf you can find out what our staff and students think.

This year, we have decided to make "Development Language Disorder (DLD)" the focus of our attention when planning for talks held in schools and for parents. As interventionists, we know how disruptive this is to a student's academic journey. A student with DLD may have normal or high intellect, but this condition has far reaching consequences affecting social and academic success. If one is still under-performing even after copious amount of tutoring hours and effort put in, one has to suspect that this may be a condition that the student is facing and the right intervention is key. Dates for Parent talks can be found on:

totalcommunication.com.sg/talks-for-2020



We are grateful to the schools who have entrusted us with their students for intensive programmes which we call the "Mustard Seed" Bespoke Programme. We are supportive of parents who are able to think outside the box and see that equipping and building up a student's core foundations will provide building blocks of learning. For more information visit:

totalcommunication.com.sg/mustard-seed

We are excited for our journey in 2020 and invite you to join in any way possible, be it in training, being trained and helping the students of your school.

Yours faithfully,

Prudence Low,
Clinical Director

WHAT IS DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER, DLD?

(PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS SPECIFIC LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT – SLI).

BY GEORGINA KEVANY

While Developmental Language Disorder is reported to affect 7.58% of children, we are still researching this condition, and the far reaching effects it has on an individual's education, employment, relationships, quality of life, and later financial success.

Amongst diagnosis and intervention, Speech and Language Therapists are also responsible for raising awareness on this disorder, as well as integrating strategies in all environments for the individual (school, home, playground, work.) The impact of having difficulty with language learning and acquisition is readily known to affect academic success. It's a variable that is easier to measure, and our society is quick to loudly announce when a child is 'under performing' in the school setting.

That said, the invisibility of this diagnosis has a profound influence on a child's overall quality of life, and that is where the Speech and Language Therapist must also advocate for well-being. We work on developing resilience, forming positive relationships, as well as skills needed for successful social interactions. The far reaching benefits of self-esteem building are widely recognised as being fundamental to learning in its truest form.



FEEDBACK ON OUR NEW CENTRE

Here are what our students and staff have to say:

"The layout is definitely more spacious and it's much brighter as well." JF, therapist

"It's really fun and (there's) way more room too." BT, 14 years

"I enjoy the nature and greenery surrounding the centre. It makes such a difference to work in a light and open environment." CH, therapist

"I like the gym." JC, 6 years

"It's great that we have a sensory room as well for the kids who need it." HW, therapist

THERAPIST'S CORNER

Our therapists share with you their favourite resources, books, games, and therapy materials.



THERAPIST:
Georgina

FAVOURITE RESOURCE: Visualizing & Verbalizing®



TELL ME MORE: The Nancibell® Visualizing and Verbalizing® Program for Cognitive Development, Comprehension, & Thinking targets children's ability to see images in their mind and then use oral and written language to communicate.

BEST FEATURE: The scientific evidence supporting it!

IDENTIFYING DLD

BY BLAKESLEY ORR

Developmental Language Disorder can be a tricky diagnosis to arrive at. From my personal experience working with kids who present with this condition, it is important to tease out any other underlying cause to their speech and language problems. There is no known cause for this condition, however it is widely known that it runs in the family and often if one sibling has the condition, then its likely other siblings will have too.

SYMPTOMS:

Children with DLD can have issues with:

- listening, attention, memory and language processing, particularly when lots of information is being given orally;
- following instructions, understanding questions and stories;
- comprehending and use of age appropriate vocabulary;
- expressing what they want to say, including difficulties with word finding, grammar and sequencing their thoughts;
- social interaction, including having difficulties joining in conversations, understanding jokes, and non-literal language; and
- using language to convey their thoughts and feelings and to regulate their behaviour.



Above: Speech and Language Therapists working with children are currently the only professionals who can thoroughly diagnose and treat Developmental Language Disorder.

FACTS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER (DLD)



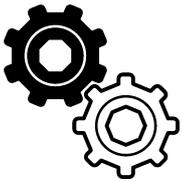
It affects approximately 7% of the population (more common than Autism and ADHD)

It affects more boys than girls



There is no known cause

It is a lifelong condition but therapy (intervention) can help



It is difficulty with talking and/or understanding and affects learning, confidence, and socialising

TOTAL COMMUNICATION

Total Communication Therapy centre is located in the leafy 10 Winstedt Rd complex. Speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, and educational therapists work closely with families and schools. If you would like to know more please feel free to contact the team using the information below.

Phone: 6467 2995 / 9115 8895

Email: enquiries@totalcommunication.com.sg

Visit: 10 Winstedt Road, Block A #02-01, Singapore 227977



Facebook: totalcommtherapy



Instagram: totalcommmsg

