

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DLD IN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

Targeted Strategies

'Blank' level questions

One model of the hierarchy of questions is the 'Blank' levels:

Level 1 questions relate to the here and now.

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Level 2 questions are still about the here and now but are more detailed and are about describing things.

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Level 3 questions relate less to the here and now and are more about stories and events.

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Level 4 questions are the most complex, and require the child or young person to analyse and reason.

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Adjust the complexity of your questions based on the language abilities of the child or young person. If you ask the rest of the class questions from Level 4, for example, a child or young person with DLD might need questions from Levels 2 and 3.

Level 4: Analysing and reasoning
How could he..? Why..? What will happen if...?
Level 3: Stories and events
What will happen next...? Tell me how to... What is a... (definition)?
Level 2: More detailed here and now, describing things
Find something that is a type of... What's happening? How are these different from each other?
Level 1: Here and now
Where is X? What's that? Who is it? Find one like this...

(Blank, 2002; Blank, Rose and Berlin, 1978; Blank and Sheila, 1986)