

# SEND

## Weekly Newsletter

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## Disorder affects two in every class of 30

### Friday, 18 October, is International DLD Awareness Day - so what is it?

Developmental Language Disorder is a condition affecting seven per cent of people, or two children in every class of 30. It's usually diagnosed in childhood, but is a life-long condition, affecting a person's understanding and/or talking, reading and writing. They may have difficulty with instructions, questions, conversations, and finding the right word.

They can also struggle to order thoughts logically, which affects interactions with others and expressing feelings, making the formation of friendships difficult.

Those with DLD are at risk of leaving education earlier, with fewer qualifications. They are also likely to have anxiety, depression and suffer from low self-esteem. Speech and Language Therapists and Therapy Support Practitioners in the Integrated Therapy Service (ITS) diagnose DLD and support children. They work to identify and decrease its impact and if possible improve speech, language and/or communication skills and increase the skills of those supporting the child. For information about the service visit [here](#).



### No Pens Wednesday!

No Pens Wednesday takes place this November. It's a national day of speaking and listening activities. The event promotes spoken language and listening skills and their crucial role in learning and life, but taking part can also help teachers to identify and support children with speech, language and communication needs.

Spoken language is taking over in schools and colleges across the country on **Wednesday 13 November 2019**.

[Sign up and download the promotional materials](#) so you can shout out about taking part!



## Teacher for the deaf repair toolkit

Teachers of the Deaf and High Level Teaching Assistants in Somerset's Hearing Support Team – part of the SPOT Service - have been issued with specialist 'toolkits' so they can quickly resolve the many complicated problems which can affect hearing equipment.

There are 316 children and young people who wear hearing aids and cochlear implants on the service case list; 94 of these are radio aid users.

If a fault occurs with a child's equipment, it is important the technology needed to resolve



these faults is available to each member of the team countywide. Resolving problems quickly is crucial if they are going to be able to hear in class and have equal access to the curriculum.

Many components in the hearing aid and radio aid system can develop faults. A range of devices

is needed to identify what's causing the system to fail and replace parts where necessary. Funding for these items, contained in the toolkit, has been provided by Schools Access Initiative allocated by Somerset County Council.

Linda Felix, the Educational Audiologist of the team, provided a business case for the funding, sourced the storage cases and the contents ensuring they were kitted out with a range of hearing aids with various older and newer technologies to cover any issues arising.

## Book now for Selworthy conference 2019

Britain's Got Talent winner, comedian Lee Ridley (pictured), is among the keynote speakers at Selworthy School's conference this year. Entitled Overcoming Barriers, it takes place on Friday, 25 October at the school in Taunton from 9am to 3.15pm. Lee - also known as AKA Lost Voice Guy - is unable to talk and is the first comedian in Britain to use a communication aid in his routines.

Inspirational speaker Alex Lowery, who was diagnosed with autism at four is also on the programme.

There will also be workshops and a chance to network. Book now - places are limited. Call 01823 284970 or email [cmerry@selworthy.oak.education](mailto:cmerry@selworthy.oak.education) to reserve your place.



## ADHD Awareness

### October is ADHD Awareness Month.

It's a chance to myth bust around some of the issues surrounding attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder which affects children, young people and adults across the world. The aim is to arm people with reliable information about ADHD and encourage those affected to seek assessment and treatment. There's loads more [information here](#).

Don't forget to check out the Short Breaks Half Term Activity Calendar - there are lots of great activities still available to book! Please visit [here to read](#) or download.

