



Young Person's Voice Informing DLD Assessment and Support

SPACE

A primary-aged young person was met with the Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) to share their views about their communication strengths, challenges and support needs using a Talking Mat. The Talking Mat provided a structured and accessible way for the young person to reflect on their experiences and identify what mattered most to them.

VOICE

The young person's views were gathered through the Talking Mat and formed a key part of the assessment process. They shared their perspectives on what they found difficult, what they were good at, and what support helped them most. Their views were considered alongside information from home, school and formal language assessments.

AUDIENCE

The SLT listened to and valued the young person's perspective, using it to inform clinical decision-making. The Talking Mat outcomes contributed directly to the assessment findings and supported agreement of a diagnosis of Developmental Language Disorder (DLD). The SLT then developed a Communication Profile for school and produced a report for the young person, explaining their strengths, needs and recommended supports in an accessible way. Parents were also signposted to a webinar to help them better understand DLD.

INFLUENCE

The young person's views influenced both the assessment outcome and the support put in place. The communication profile helped school staff understand how best to support them, while the report enabled the young person to gain a clearer understanding of their own communication profile. The information shared with the family increased their knowledge and confidence in supporting the young person.

Outcome

Following receipt of the report and diagnosis information, the young person's mother shared that there had been a significant positive impact on their wellbeing and self-perception. The young person moved from feeling "not good enough" and having a very negative view of themselves to developing a more positive self-image and better understanding of their strengths and challenges.





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Key Outcomes

-  Young person's views directly informed assessment and diagnosis.
-  Increased understanding of DLD for the young person, family and school.
-  Improved self-awareness of strengths and support needs.
-  More personalised support through a communication profile.
-  Enhanced confidence and self-esteem.
-  Reduced negative self-perceptions and improved emotional wellbeing.
-  Empowered family to access further information and support.

