



FAST FACTS:

What is Language Delay Network?

An information source and a network on Language and Speech Delay, Language Disorders, Learning Difficulties and Auditory Processing Disorders in Children www.languagedelaynetwork.com.

Who is Language Delay Network?

Sandra Ahlquist Founder/Owner

Mother of an 10 year old with a Severe Language Disorder and was diagnosed in 2010 with an Auditory Processing Disorder.

Why start Language Delay Network?

There is no network. There are speech pathologists and associations like Children with a Disability but no one who can support parents and link other parents with parents, tell and share the real stories for this disorder.

Often you find links to sites but it's out of date information or very generalised or not on topic.



There is no 'one place' you can go and get the answers. You just blunder through the system health and education. Early childhood intervention is very poor in Australia both on what they offer in the way of funding but also actual what is available. Waiting lists can be long to see specialists if you aren't going private, and in some cases even if you are, can be up to 6 months.

The school education system fails to adequately fund language delay. They have pushed back on funding making it very difficult for children to get adequate aide support. Not all children with a language delay fall in the Autism Spectrum Disorder so that closes a door on any other funding. They can only display language problems and they can have average/ or even high IQ. So they are pushed through the education system getting left behind and not adequately supported. It's very frustrating/ upsetting and a blow to their self esteem for them and us parents. This in effect can and does from my personal experience lead to behaviour problems.

Some parents won't or don't feel able to advocate for their children, are intimidated by the education system, or feel they are causing a fuss. They don't know their rights.

These children can learn. They just need to learn differently and **they need aides/support, more visual learning**, creative learning, opportunities to be able to flourish and successful and build self esteem. It not good for anyone's self esteem always feeling misunderstood when everyone else 'gets' it and you don't.

Often bad behaviour, lack of motivation, lack of concentration, fidgeting, being the fool in class can all be linked or signals that a child is finding it difficult at school.

Why join Language Delay Network?

- Support,
- Share your stories you may help someone,
- Find information – The Visions - one stop shop on everything Language Delay in Children



- Purchase helpful self –education tools from the e-bookstore
- Learn more about Language delay
- Support a group that is creating more awareness – Kids Speech Matters

When did it start?

March 2010

Where did the idea come from?

- Being a parent and searching for my own information and support network. To really understand what I was dealing with.
- Of feeling like you just can't get the support or advocacy needed.
- Personally being at the end of my tether where the education setting was concerned. It has been and still can be, very frustrating and you feel very alone.
- Being able to share my knowledge with others so they know what to look out for in the early days.
- Have information available on funding options, what you are entitled to at school, helpful programmes and explanation around the jargon. It's all at Language Delay Network in 'parent/carer/teacher friendly' speak.



Key goals for the future:

- Profile /Awareness of Language Delay in children in the hope that it can and will change the education system and more funding given to these children.
- Create a directory of associations, support and key parenting groups that assist with profiling Language Delay Network - spread the word – help more parents.
- Assist advocating with other parents – hints and tips – know their entitlements and rights
- Helping parents be a better advocate for their children at school - mentoring.
- Get the recognition these kids deserve – more help at school and home!
- Create a 'hub' a one stop Language Delay support online network for parents, teachers and linking specialists with these two groups.

Language Delay in Children

Communication – the process of being able to understand and to be understood– is something most of us take for granted.

Communication disabilities are the result of problems with speech, using and understanding language, voice, fluency, hearing, or reading and writing.

One in seven Australians has some form of communication disability. This means that one in seven people has a problem understanding other people or being understood by people.



*An example, 13% of school aged children will have a speech and language disability.
Reference: Speech Pathology Australia.*

*There are approx 4,4million school aged children in Australia. **Potentially 572,000 children who need help!***

** Referenced BRW article Feb2010*

Contact for more information or if you are interested in promoting and supporting this network:

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What can you do now – how you can help?

- Download the DL Flyer and share with others.

<http://languagedelaynetwork.com/how-can-you-help>

- Link to Language Delay Network from you site in resources, links and suggest a visit.



You never know what you can contribute or what you may find out!



Sandra Ahlquist – Founder /Parent of a child with a Severe Language Disorder

