

**Title**

Narrative abilities and executive functioning in children with Developmental Language Disorders: a longitudinal study

**Authors**

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**Background**

Children with DLD often perform significantly more poorly than typically developing children on tasks tapping working memory and other executive functioning tasks (EFs). Still, the relationship between these more general cognitive abilities and narrative performance in DLD is not yet fully understood. By means of an analysis of longitudinal narrative and EF data, this study contributes to a better understanding of this relationship.

**Aims**

1. Are there predictive relationships between EFs and narrative abilities in DLD?
2. Does performance on EF tasks at T1 predict narrative ability at T2 in DLD?

**Methods & Procedures**

134 children with DLD in the age of 6 to 8 years received interdisciplinary treatment during 8 weeks. EF tasks and narrative tasks are tested before treatment and one year after the first test sessions.

**Results**

Results show that EF is indeed related to narrative ability in DLD. Verbal working memory, cognitive flexibility and visual short-term memory at age 6 and 7 were significant predictors of narrative ability at age 7 and 8.

**Conclusions & Implications**

Several EFs are correlated to specific narrative abilities in children with DLD. The results support the view on language impairments as part of a broader cognitive deficit. Future research should include more non-verbal tasks to find the exact role EF skills play in DLD.