**Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is diagnosed when children have difficulty learning language for no apparent reason. Children with DLD may have “difficulty understanding what people say to them, and struggle expressing their ideas and feelings.”**

Approximately 2 children in every classroom experience DLD. DLD affects academic and social development.

**If you have any concerns about your child’s speech and language, contact a speech-language pathologist!**
Language Building Activities for Fall/Winter

Family Time = Social Time!
- If your family is getting together over the holidays, you can help your child connect with relatives or friends by taking some time to prepare them!
- Get your child ready for what to expect by showing pictures of expected guests, and sketching out a quick schedule to review what they will be doing while company is over (1. say hi, 2. play, 3. eat, 4. say goodbye)- this will create order in their mind because they know what to expect!
- Allow your child some time to warm up; hiding behind familiar people at first is OK! They will interact with your guests more easily when given this opportunity!
- Help your child learn to initiate interaction when they are ready by practicing a comfortable phrase they can use. For example you can let your child show their favorite toy and ask “want to see my race track?”

Look for Leaves!
- Hunt for dried leaves that have fallen to the ground
- Gather the leaves in a bag or basket; practice location words while you do this (on the ground, in the basket)
- When you come home, use a crayon to make leaf fossils! Put each leaf under some blank paper and color over them.
- Practice formulating new phrases using your example by combining different people or animals, actions, and descriptions (Paula is coloring a green leaf! Mommy is coloring a yellow leaf!)
- Focus on various descriptive words – such as words that describe the leaf’s size, color, shape

Cooking with Kids!
- Colder weather calls for warm meals! If you cook with your kids, take advantage of the language opportunities that this activity can present!
- Teach new and specific verbs as you cook- emphasize words like stir, crack, mix, pour, dump, spread, measure
- Practice simple sound combinations that are fun to say! Using fun sound or word combinations can be motivating to practice, and you can work in repetitions of any sounds your child might have trouble with. For example, “mash, mash” while mashing potatoes, or “boom boom” while using cookie cutters.
- Talk about what your child is doing in the kitchen, using simple phrases so he can listen to how you put sentences together. For example, “You cracked an egg! Now the egg is in the bowl.”

Check out these books for fall and winter!
The Snowy Day (library link)
The Roll-Away Pumpkin (library link)
One Snowy Night (library link)
Room on the Broom (library link)
A Loud Winter’s Nap (library link)