



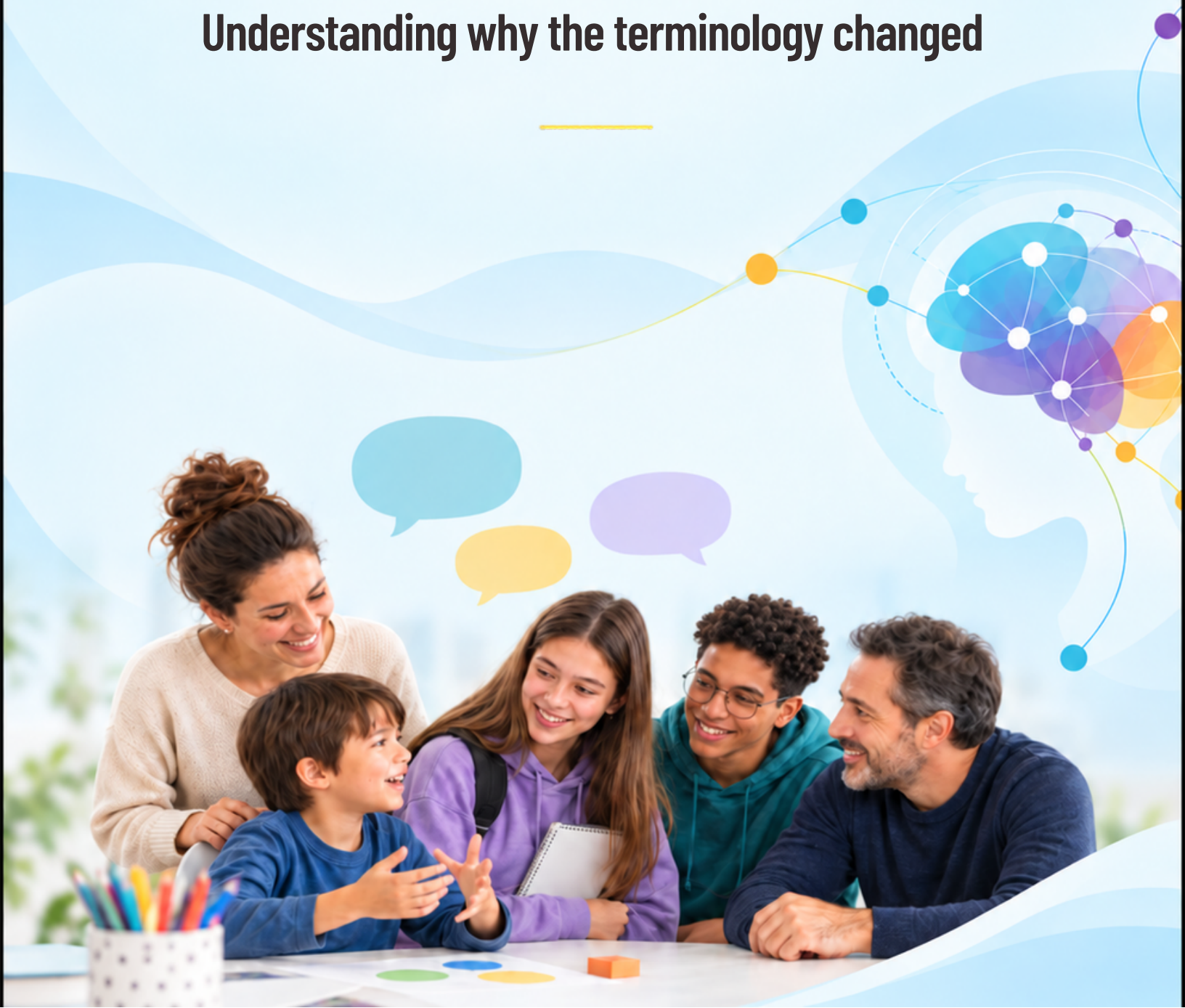
**Regroupement
TDL Québec**
*Trouble développemental
du langage*

COGNITION

LANGUAGE

From Dysphasia to Developmental Language Disorder

Understanding why the terminology changed



From Dysphasia to Developmental Language Disorder : Understanding why the terminology changed

For many years, different terms were used to describe children and adults with significant language difficulties, including auditory mutism, dysphasia and primary language disorder. This terminological diversity could create confusion among clinical, educational and research communities as well as among the general public.

The term Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) reflects a desire to promote a common vocabulary and a more current understanding of language disorders.

Why did the terminology change?

Language difficulties have been described and categorized in different ways over time. Depending on the era, discipline and country, several terms have coexisted.

This diversity could complicate communication between professionals, scientific research, information provided to families and the recognition of needs.

The international CATALISE project was undertaken to reach a consensus on the criteria and terminology used to describe language difficulties in children.

CATALISE: toward an international consensus

CATALISE stands for "*Criteria and Terminology Applied to Language Impairments: Synthesising the Evidence*." The project brought together an international and multidisciplinary group of experts.

The first phase focused on the criteria for identifying language difficulties. The second phase, published online on March 30, 2017, focused on terminology.

In phase 2, the panel consisted of 57 people representing different professions and nationalities. The consensus recommended the term "Language Disorder" for a profile of difficulties with functional implications and the term "Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)" when the language disorder is not associated with a known biomedical etiology.

What did CATALISE change?

The consensus helped to revisit some traditional ways of defining language disorders.

It was notably agreed that a DLD does not require a discrepancy between verbal and non-verbal abilities.

The consensus also recognizes that DLD can coexist with other neurodevelopmental disorders and that the presence of risk factors does not necessarily exclude a DLD.

Emphasis is also placed on functional implications: what language difficulties actually change in a person's daily life must be considered.

The change in Québec

In Québec, the Ordre des orthophonistes et audiologistes du Québec (OOAQ) recommended to its members on September 22, 2017, to adopt the new terminology "trouble développemental du langage" (developmental language disorder) arising from the CATALISE project.

The OOAQ now indicates that several terms were used in the past, including auditory mutism, dysphasia and primary language disorder, and presents DLD as "formerly dysphasia."

For a person already identified with auditory mutism, dysphasia or primary language disorder, the OOAQ specifies that the terminology change refers to the same type of disorder and has no impact on services already in place.

The change in Canada

On December 11, 2018, Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) published an official statement on childhood language disorders.

SAC supports the promotion and implementation of the CATALISE consensus statements regarding identification criteria and terminology.

The statement specifies that CATALISE recommends "Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)" when the language disorder is not associated with a known biomedical cause.

It is therefore more accurate to say that SAC published an official statement supporting the CATALISE recommendations rather than simply referring to an "adoption" of the term.

Do dysphasia and DLD refer to the same disorder?

For a person already identified as having dysphasia, the change in terminology does not mean that they suddenly have a different disorder.

The terminology change refers to the same type of disorder for people already identified with auditory mutism, dysphasia or primary language disorder.

The name has evolved, but the people, their journeys and their needs do not disappear with the change in vocabulary.



Is it only a name change?

No. The transition from "dysphasia" to "DLD" represents an evolution in terminology, but also in the way language disorders are conceptualized and understood.

The change reflects a desire to emphasize functional implications, recognize the diversity of profiles and better account for the possible coexistence with other neurodevelopmental disorders.

DLD should therefore not be presented as a simple translation or a label change without nuance: the scientific context and criteria have also evolved.

What the terminology change does NOT mean

-  That dysphasia did not exist.
-  That people previously identified as having dysphasia no longer have difficulties.
-  That a person must start their service journey from scratch.
-  That all people with DLD present the same difficulties.
-  That changing the name is sufficient to meet the needs of people.

What does not change: the needs of people

People with DLD may face barriers in language comprehension and expression, learning, social interactions, participation, autonomy and professional life. However, manifestations vary greatly from one person to another.

The terminology change therefore does not replace the actions needed to adapt environments, support communication and promote participation.



Une ligne du temps



2016

First phase of CATALISE: criteria for identifying language difficulties.



March 30, 2017

Online publication of the second phase of CATALISE, focused notably on terminology.



September 22, 2017

The OOAQ recommends that its members adopt the term "developmental language disorder."



December 11, 2018

SAC (Speech-Language & Audiology Canada) publishes its official statement supporting the promotion and implementation of CATALISE recommendations, including the use of Developmental Language Disorder (DLD).

Questions we are frequently asked

Why is "dysphasia" no longer used?

Because the terminology evolved following scientific work and an international consensus aimed at establishing a common language.

Does dysphasia still exist?

The term may still appear in older files and personal histories. Today, in Québec, the reference term is Developmental Language Disorder.

My child had dysphasia. Do they now have DLD?

The terminology change refers to the same type of disorder for people already identified as having dysphasia.

Why was it necessary to change the name?

To promote more consistent terminology and better understanding, identification and recognition of the people concerned.

Is it only a name change?

No. The change accompanies an evolution in the conceptualization and identification of language disorders.

Main sources

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- Ordre des orthophonistes et audiologistes du Québec (OOAQ). Trouble développemental du langage (TDL) – Anciennement dysphasie.
- Ordre des orthophonistes et audiologistes du Québec (OOAQ). Positionnement du 22 septembre 2017 sur la nouvelle terminologie.
- Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC). Official Statement on Childhood Language Disorder, 11 December 2018.



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