

“It's not on people's radars... they're not interested”

Dr Rebecca Murray, Cara Staniforth, Amira Shawak, & Dr Lucy Eddy.

What did we do?

Ten parents of a child with a diagnosis of DCD (self-reported) were interviewed online for between 30-45 minutes. Participants who were based both nationally and internationally were asked to share their experiences of DCD within the realms of healthcare, education, friendships, and wellbeing. The study was approved by the University of Bradford Ethics Committee (ref: E1026).

What did we find?

Impact of DCD



Self-care tasks
Barriers to independence



Sensory
Translating visual information into movement



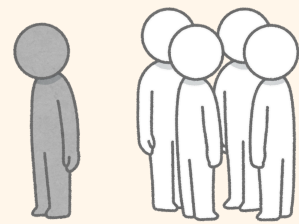
Scaffolding
Play and extracurricular activities



Cognitive challenges
Related to memory, attention and planning



Mental health
Challenges leading to school anxiety



Social exclusion
from activities with peers



Low confidence
Due to negative experiences with peers



Bullying
Both physical and emotional



Friendships
Were often found within difference

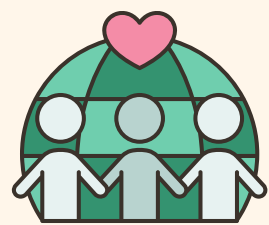
Lack of awareness



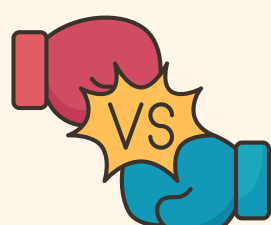
Healthcare
Leading to barriers in the system



Education
Teacher naivety and disinterest



Community
Including parents, families and friends



Parents as advocates
Relentless battles across services



Healthcare
Limited provision beyond signposting



Education
Neglected needs and abandonment

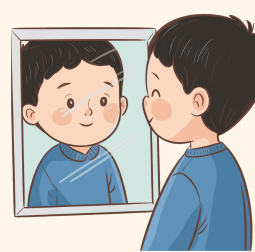


Community
Lack of support groups and charities

Role of diagnosis



Burden
Stigma and lack of acceptance from others



Self - acceptance
DCD label was therapeutic for identity



Next Steps...

Healthcare, education and communities need to work together to support DCD and develop evidence-based training underpinned by lived experience.

Publication

