

## Twitter Thread by [SCALES](#)

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Today we have [@SarahGriff90](#) discussing her recently published paper 'Early language competence, but not general cognitive ability, predicts children's recognition of emotion from facial and vocal cues'.

Although most children with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) do not develop mental health problems, they are at greater risk compared to their typically developing peers.



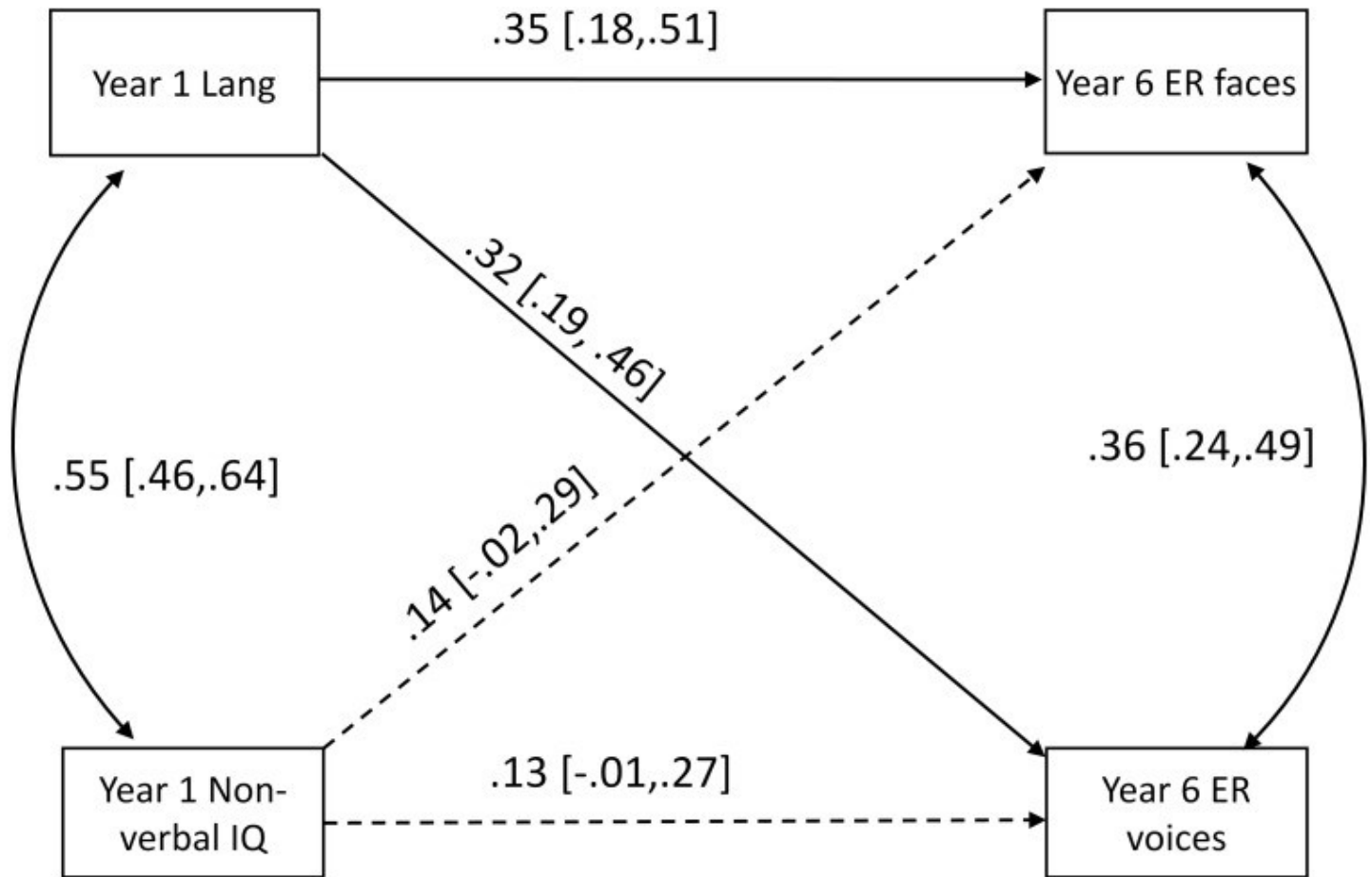
If we want to intervene to minimise this risk, we need to understand why DLD is associated with poorer mental health.



One possibility we are exploring in SCALES is that poor language reduces the ability to recognise and reason about emotions, which in turn increases risk of mental ill health.



We also found that, across the whole sample, language competence in Year 1, but not general cognitive ability, predicted emotion recognition accuracy in Year 6.



This study provides good evidence that ER is a challenge for children with DLD and that this seems to be directly related to their language skills.

We suggest that ER and more specifically, the language around emotion, should be a target for interventions for children with DLD.



Our next step is to look at whether emotion recognition ability in Year 6 mediates any relationship between language competence in Year 1 and mental health outcomes in secondary school.





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