

# GESTALT LANGUAGE PROCESSING

## WHAT IS GESTALT LANGUAGE PROCESSING?

Some children learn to talk by using 'chunks' or 'scripts' (called Gestalts) rather than single words. Instead of starting with words like 'Ball' or 'Go!', they might first say something like 'Let's go!' or 'We did it!' They will then break these scripts down into smaller parts over time.

## KEY POINTS FOR PARENTS:



**Natural Language Development:** Some children start with single words (analytic processors), while others use scripts (gestalt processors). Both are natural ways of learning language.

### Stages of GLP:



1. **Gestalts:** Child uses long scripts or phrases from songs, shows, or routines (e.g., 'Are you ready to go?').
2. **Mixing & Matching:** Child combines parts of scripts.
3. **Single Words:** Child breaks down scripts into individual words.
4. **Self-Generated Speech:** Child creates their own sentences.



**Echolalia:** Repeating phrases or lines is part of this learning process, not just 'mimicking'.

## HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT GLP:



**Acknowledge Scripts:** Treat scripts as meaningful communication instead of correcting them. *Example: If your child says, 'Let's get outta here!' (from a movie), respond with, 'Yes, let's go outside!'*



**Model Short Phrases:** Use short, natural phrases in everyday routines (e.g., 'Time to eat,' 'Let's go,' 'All done').



**Play and Sing:** Songs, predictable routines, and interactive play are powerful tools.



**Pause and Wait:** Give your child space to use their own scripts or words.

## RECOMMENDED PARENT RESOURCES:



### Books

- Natural Language Acquisition on the Autism Spectrum by Marge Blanc.
- The Gestalt Language Processing Handbook by Marge Blanc & colleagues.



### Social Media

- Instagram: @meaningfulspeech, @bohospeechie



### Websites & Blogs

- Meaningful Speech (<https://www.meaningfulspeech.com/>)
- Communication Development Center (<https://communicationdevelopmentcenter.com/>)
- Natural Communication Blog (<https://www.naturalcommunication.org/blog>)