

Gestalt Language Processing

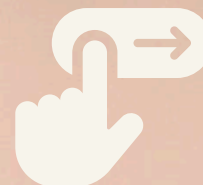
*An overview for
early years professionals*



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Gestalt Language Processing (GLP) is a way some children learn language.

Rather than beginning with individual words, children described as gestalt language processors may use whole phrases or 'chunks'.



2

Children may repeat 'scripts' or phrases they've heard before – this is called Echolalia.

Echolalia can be meaningful communication. Over time, some children may begin to adapt, combine and change these phrases as their language develops.



3

There are six stages commonly described by the GLP framework:

Stage 1: Whole Gestalts

Uses whole memorised phrases or scripts.

Stage 2: Mitigated Gestalts

Begins to mix or shorten the parts of familiar phrases.

Stage 3: Single Words

Begins to recognise and use individual words independently.



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There are six stages commonly described by the GLP framework:

Stage 4: Beginning Grammar

Begins combining words to create new phrases and sentences.

Stage 5: Advanced Grammar

Uses increasingly complex grammar and sentence structures.

Stage 6: Complex & Spontaneous Language

Uses original sentences with more complex grammar.



Source: Cleveland Clinic,
Gestalt Language Processing:
What It Is & Stages