

# Gestalt Language Processing

This infographic gives a visual explanation of the stages of gestalt language processing

## GLP Stages

## What does it mean?

### Stage 1 Echolalia

I need a  
bandaid

"to infinity and  
beyond"



At this stage your child is learning (and using) full scripts or “gestalts”

At this stage there is an underlying meaning to the gestalt that means the words cannot be taken literally.

### Stage 2 Mitigation



I need a  
....

"to infinity"  
"and beyond"

At this stage your child begins to break down longer strings into “chunks” to mix and match.

### Stage 3 Single words and 2 word combinations



Break these “chunks”  
into single words

"to" "and"  
"beyond"  
"emergency"  
"This is"



### Stage 4-6 Sentence grammar develops



"mummy  
cookie me"

This is where GLP language acquisition begins to look more like the progression that traditional communication milestones describe. The child seems to go from full and complete sentences (at stage 1) to sentences and phrases with grammatical errors.

## Learn More

Learn more about gestalt language processing stages in our blog post <https://www.smalltalkspeechtherapy.com.au/gestalt-language-processing-stages>

## References

- Prizant, B. (1983). Language Acquisition and communicative behavior in autism: Toward an understanding of the “Whole” of it. *Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders*, 48, 296-307.
- Stiegler, L. N. (2015). Examining the echolalia literature: Where do speech-language pathologists stand? *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 24, 750-762.
- Blanc, M. 2012. *Natural Language Acquisition on the Autism Spectrum: The Journey from Echolalia to Self-Generated Language*. Madison, WI: Communication Development Center Inc.