



# LITTLE GEMS

# NEWSLETTER

## Understanding and Supporting Gestalt Language Processors

Helping children communicate  
in their own way



Issue 3 - Spring 2026



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**This month we're exploring Gestalt Language Processing (GLP). Some children learn language differently. Instead of learning single words first and then building sentences, they learn whole phrases or "chunks" of language.**

**You might hear your child say things they've heard from favourite books, songs, TV shows, or family members. This is a valid and meaningful way of developing communication.**

**In this issue we'll explore:**

- ✓ What GLP is**
- ✓ How to support communication naturally**
- ✓ Activities you can try at home**
- ✓ Helpful resources for families**

**Remember: communication is more important than perfection.**



# Learning focus

## What is Gestalt Language Processing?

A Gestalt Language Processor learns language in chunks rather than individual words.

Children may use these phrases because they carry meaning for them.

You might notice:

- Repeating favourite phrases
  - Quoting TV shows
  - Singing lines from songs
  - Using scripts during play
- Strong memory for language

"Let's go!"  
"Ready, steady, go!"  
"To infinity and beyond!"  
"Time for bed!"



Echolalia is communication. Those repeated phrases often have meaning and purpose. Instead of stopping them, we can help understand what they're trying to tell us.



## **Parent Tip of the Month: Follow the Meaning, Not Just the Words**

**When your child uses a script or repeated  
phrase:**

**Don't immediately correct them  
Think about what they may be trying to  
communicate**

**Example:**

**Child: "Ready, steady, go!"**

**They may mean:**

**I'm excited**

**I want to start**

**Let's play**

**Something fun is happening**

**When we respond to the meaning, we support  
communication and connection.**

# Communication detective sheet

Become a Communication Detective

Keep track of phrases your child uses.

Look for patterns

Does your child use certain phrases when:

- ★ Happy
- ★ Excited
- ★ Frustrated
- ★ Tired
- ★ Asking for help



# Communication Detective

## My Child's Favourite Scripts

Draw or write:

Favourite TV phrases

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Favourite songs

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Favourite books

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Favourite play phrases

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Parent Reflection:

What have I learned about my child's communication this week?

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# Game of the Month: Silly Sound Effects Play

Choose:

 Cars

 Dinosaurs

 Trains

 Animals

Follow your child's lead.

Copy their sounds and actions.

Add simple comments:

"Crash!"

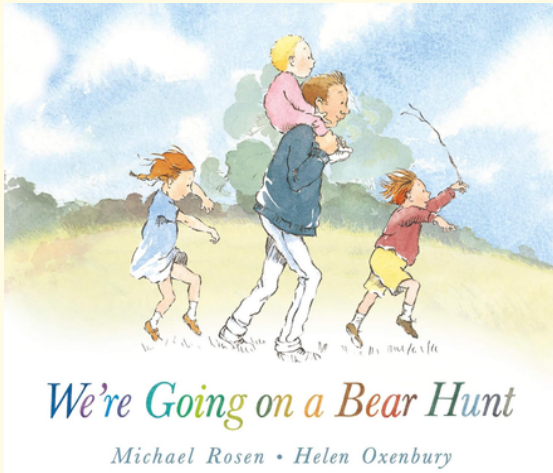
"Wow!"

"Big jump!"

"Uh oh!"

This encourages shared attention,  
connection and language growth without  
pressure.

# Book of the Month: “We’re going on a bear hunt” by Michael Rosen



## Why we love it:

- Repetitive phrases encourage participation
  - Predictable language helps children anticipate what's coming next
  - Great opportunities for actions and movement
  - Supports listening and attention skills
  - Fun for both speaking and non-speaking children
- Parent Tip: Pause before saying a familiar phrase and see if your child joins in using words, actions, gestures, or sounds.**

# Did You Know?

**Many autistic children are Gestalt Language Processors. Echolalia is often an important stage of language development rather than something that needs to be stopped.**

**Communication can include:**

- ★ **Speech**
- ★ **Gestures**
- ★ **Facial expressions**
- ★ **AAC**
- ★ **Scripts and echolalia**

**Every form of communication matters.**



# Ask the Therapist



**"My child repeats lines from TV programmes all day. Should I stop them?"**

**Usually no.**

**Those repeated phrases may be helping your child communicate, regulate emotions, practise language, or connect with others. Try listening for the meaning behind the phrase and responding naturally.**

**If you're unsure, a Speech and Language Therapist can help you understand your child's communication style and identify ways to support further language development.**



**Want to ask something next month?  
Click here to submit your question**



# Quick Links & Contact Info



Book an Initial Consultation or Assessment:  
<https://shorturl.at/Wq7uA>



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