



Gestalt Language Processing in your Classroom

Dear Teacher,

We heard you have a gestalt language processor (GLP) in your class. We're here to support you!

You know how to teach
...
we're here to tell about your GLP so you can feel confident doing what you already do.
...
with a little twist.

Your student's gestalts might not make sense (yet), but their actions "truly" speak louder than words. They communicate!


Sing your words to your class: "It's time to go!"
"Let's get our snacks."

Repeat their words. They might love it!
"If youe happy and you know it"
"Are you sleeping?"
"Abcdefghijklmnop"

But they might not! It's ok. You'll find out what they like.

Questions don't work for early GLPs. Think multiple choice or modeling one choice and watching their reaction.

Use their interests to support their learning ... think ABC's, 123's

Your words count. You can talk the same way to all your students

Find a quiet corner and spend some time with your quiet child. They may never have been 'heard' before..

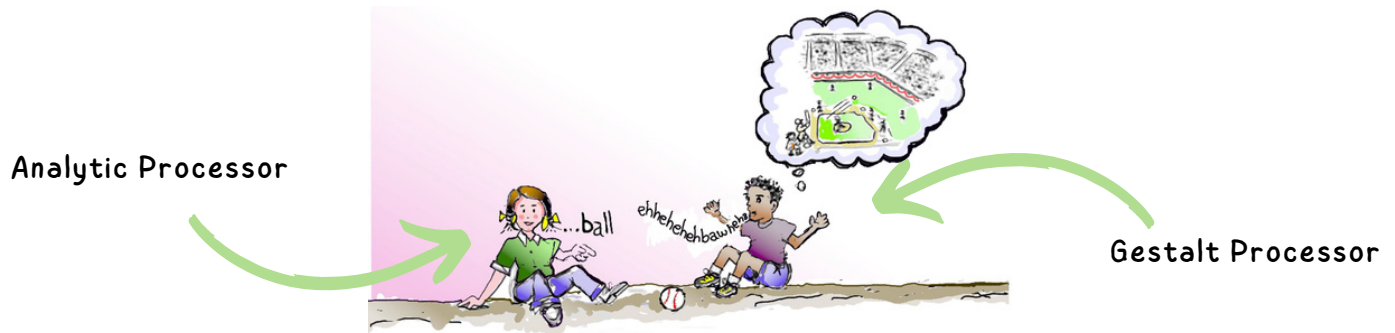
Their words might seem random, but they're not! They are gestalts!
'when you feel so mad and you want to roar'
Five little monkeys jump in on the bed

Your GLP might be talking or singing...or looking like they aren't paying attention,... but they are probably still listening!

Some small things you can do might mean a whole world to your student...



Ways to support gestalt language development in the classroom that can benefit all learners.



ABOUT GESTALT LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Many of your students seem to be learning typically- they most likely are "analytic language processors" (ALPs). The kids who don't seem to be learning language that way are gestalt language processors (GLPs).

GLPs start language development with whole chunks (gestalts) instead of single words. Gestalts can be from a movie or from something that a student has heard before. Eventually a GLP can break down these gestalts into single words and start talking "using their own words".

Create a rich language environment for ALPs and GLPs by acknowledging what students are saying + model your own natural, engaging language



Acknowledge Communication

Acknowledge all language from everyone. Your response to a gestalt you don't understand can be as simple as responding with "Yeah!" or repeating back what the student says.

Provide different ways for your student to demonstrate understanding.



Use Self and Parallel Talk

Create a positive and warm language rich environment.

Narrate your classroom: "He's working hard at the Play Dough Center." "We're finishing our project!" "I'm getting our snacks ready".

Use "I'm" "they're" "it's" for our GLPs- avoid "you're"!



Incorporate Songs and Intonation

Incorporate singing or songs when giving directions or during transitions to help students better "hear it".

In a sing-songy voice say "It's time to get our blue cups for water!"