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The Journey of Gestalt Language Development

HAPPY CHATTERS
Language Development
Connection over Compliance
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From "Whole Chunks" to Self-Generated Language

Meaningful communication happens at every stage from whole gestalts to complex self-generated language.

Stage 1. Whole Gestalts

Children first acquire language in meaningful "chunks"/"scripts" . They come from real life, media, favorite movies, TV shows, or songs and are used just as they are. They may be completely unintelligible

- Ready, steady, go!
- Let's go play!
- Thewheelsonthebusgorounda ndroundroundandroundrounda ndround...

Stage 2. Mitigating Gestalts

Children begin to break down gestalts.
They notice parts that are the same and can recombine those parts.

- Ready, steady, jump!
- Let's go home/park/shop
- The wheels on the car/train/ go round.



Stage 3. Isolating "building-block" words:

Children isolate single words and add new words that refer to things and qualities.

- car
- red
- wheel
- bus
- park
- home
- train
- shop



Stage 4. Grammar

Children begin creating their own phrases and sentences.
Their language may sound unusual, but it shows they are generating language independently.

- Go school.
- We went ... to park.
- Is the bus coming?
- Yesterday we went to the park and played.
- When is mom gonna make pancakes?

Stages 5/6. Complex Self-Generated Language:

Children develop more complex language for sharing ideas, explaining, reasoning, storytelling, and conversations.

- I was upset when I didn't get another turn.
- I think we should build the tower again because it fell down.
- Why can't we go to the park before school?

Natural Language Acquisition in Action

Every child's language journey is unique. Children develop language through connection, meaningful experiences, and supportive communication partners. We celebrate progress, honour the child's path, and support their communication every step of the way.

Children are born to connect. They acquire language naturally through meaningful interactions and experiences. For many children, language develops from whole, meaningful chunks to flexible, self-generated communication. They are gestalt language processors (GLPs)!

In the Beginning: "Whole Chunks" Stage 1

These children start language development by processing whole, meaningful chunks of language These chunks are not random-they are connected to the child's real life and functional & communicative once we know that!

Gestalts you might hear your child say or sing:

"Incy Wincy Spider!"... when it's raining



"The wheels on the bus go round and round"... when they want to go somewhere



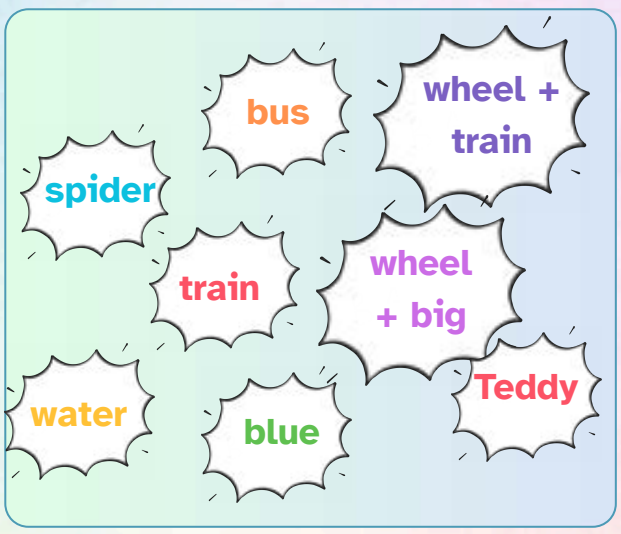
"Ready, steady, go!"... when it's time to start playing



"Are you ok?"... when they fall/get hurt



Isolating Single Words and Combining Two Referential Single Words: Stage 3



Grammar: Stage 4

Children begin creating their own phrases and sentences.

Go playground.





Us went ... for shop.

I made a... fall down ... big tower!



Mitigated Gestalts: Stage 2

"Incy Wincy Teddy"...Using a familiar pattern but replacing "Spider" with another favourite object or character.



"The wheels on the train go round and round"...Using the same structure but adapting it to a new interest or experience.



"Ready, Steady, Splash!"... Applying the same pattern during water play.



"Are you ... ready?"... Using the familiar phrase during pretend play.

Complex Self-Generated Language: Stage 5&6

Children develop increasingly complex language for sharing ideas, explaining, reasoning, storytelling and conversations.

I think we need a big box.

I was happy because Grandma came to visit.



Why can't we go to the park before school?



Language We Can Model

Everyday chunks children can easily adopt, use and later break down.

Back to the Basics: Language We Can Model from the Beginning at Stage One

Let's go...





It's time for...

How about...





That's...

Ready,steady...





Uh-oh...

Where's ...?





I did it!

Look at...





We're going...

It's open ...



Happy language development – we're all in this together!

Join our Facebook group: Gestalt Cognitive Processing Support