



**LONDON
SPEECH
THERAPY**
Psychology & Allied Services

GESTALT LANGUAGE PROCESSING



WHAT IS GLP?

- GLP is a way of learning language by processing language in chunks
- It is a natural and normal way to learn language and follows 6 stages
- Children might begin to learn by repeating whole chunks of language they have heard (echolalia)
- This could be a whole phrase, song or word or it can sound like strings of sounds which appear familiar due to their rich melody and intonation
- GLPs then learn to break these chunks (scripts) apart and mix them
- Next they isolate words and start to use those to make new 2 word combinations
- Then they begin to develop grammar

WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

- Children often learn scripts better when they are having a particularly emotional time
- They might be happy/sad/angry/excited and then use the script later on when feeling the same emotion, rather than saying what is happening
- It can therefore be difficult to work out what the scripts mean
- So we need to investigate what their scripts might mean - there is often a deeper meaning than what appears at surface level!

IS MY CHILD A GLP?

- Uses echolalia
- Speech has rich intonation
- Picking up on songs
- Stuck on single words
- Using video clips/media to communicate or replaying the same clip over

HOW TO HELP

- Acknowledge all their communication - celebrate connection, don't correct!
- E.g. nod, look, smile, repeat, 'umm' - model taking a conversational turn
- Model what we think *they* want to say, without expectation
- Use first person / child's / joint perspective e.g. "I", "we". Avoid "you" which promotes pronoun reversal
- Model new short phrases for them to mix and match. Some useful sentence starters are:
 - I'm + X It's + X
 - Let's + X That's + X
 - Where + Don't + X
- Eliminate questioning
- Focus on commenting and narrating
- Follow their lead and interests
- Use expressive intonation tied to meaningful experiences to make the gestalts memorable