

# Let's review the six stages of gestalt language development

## **Stage 1: Delayed Echolalia**

Scripting whole gestalts, single word gestalts, and/or intonationally defined strings of language from people, media, or books.

Example: "There's a monster at the end of the book!"

## **Stage 2: Mix and Match Stage or "Trimming down" (Partial Gestalts)**

Mitigating larger Stage 1 gestalts into smaller chunks and also mixing and matching parts/chunks of Stage 1 gestalts into semi-unique utterances.

Examples #1 (mixing of two partial gestalts): "There's a monster + under there" = There's a monster under there.

Example #2 (Trimming down): "There's a monster."

## **Stage 3: Single Words and Two-Word Combinations**

Breaking the script down to one word unit and/or making a new noun combination.

Example: "monster", "scary monster", "monster red"

## **Stages 4-6: New Original Phrases or Sentences with Beginning Grammar, More Advanced and Complex Grammar**

Putting word units together to make novel phrases or sentences. At Stage 4, children are using beginning grammar. At stages 5-6, children begin using advanced and complex grammar.

Examples: "The monster goed under" (Stage 4) "The monster can't get out" (Stage 5), "Shouldn't he have come out from under the bed by now?" (Stage 6).

The Natural Language Acquisition Framework (Blanc, 2012)

