

# WHAT IS ECHOLALIA?

a.k.a "gestalt language"

The production of words, phrases, sentences or even much longer chunks of discourse, up to and including the entire dialogue of a feature length movies.

## Echolalia Communicates!

It can provide us with important insight on how the child sees the world or what the child is experiencing in any certain moment.



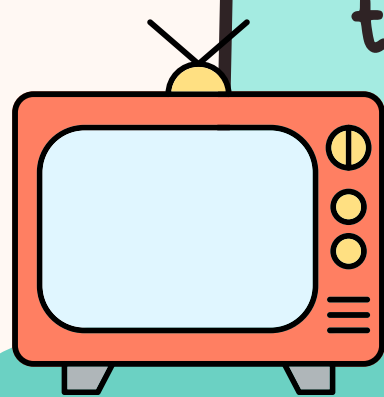
## Key indicator of how a child develops language!

If a child is using delayed echolalia (scripts/gestalts) and struggling to make progress with more traditional speech therapy approaches, this can mean that the child is a **GESTALT LANGUAGE PROCESSOR** and would benefit from specific Speech Therapy Interventions! (i.e. Natural Language Acquisition)



## Shouldn't we be discouraging their "TV Talk?"

**NO!** If the child is using echolalia (scripts, gestalts) they are communicating. We need to recognize their communication and do the work to understand their message.



## Gestalt Language Processing

- Gestalt language processing is a language development style, not a disorder
- Gestalts (scripts) are tied to experiences. When a similar experience occurs, the child produces the gestalt to best match.
- The child can progress through developmental stages to reach self-generated language



## I suspect my child is a gestalt language processor

- Talk to your Speech Therapist about Natural Language Acquisition!
- Learn more on Instagram: @meaningfulspeech
- Read "Natural Language Acquisition on the Autism Spectrum" by Marge Blanc
- Read "Finding the Words to Tell the Whole Story" available at [communicationdevelopmentcenter.com](http://communicationdevelopmentcenter.com)
- Look into online courses like ones offered on [NorthernSpeech.com](http://NorthernSpeech.com)

