

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

Analytic Language Development

- Analytic language development was recognized through research in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s.
- It has come to be known as 'typical language development.'
- Meaning is first derived from single words.
- Single words are the first 'units of meaning' (A. Peters, 1983/2021).
- Language develops from single words to two-word combinations.
- Language then develops into phrases and sentences.
- Sentences include more complex grammar.

Gestalt Language Development

- Gestalt language development was recognized through research in the 1970s and 1980s (B. Prizant, 1983; A. Peters, 1983/2021).
- It has often been referred to as 'echolalia,' i.e., language chunks that are heard, stored, and used later.
- Meaning is first derived from language 'chunks' (gestalts).*
- Language gestalts can be of any length; each is a 'unit of meaning' (A. Peters, 1983/2021).
- Language develops from whole chunks to smaller chunks (mitigated gestalts).



- Language then develops from small chunks to single words and two-word combinations.
- Language naturally develops into phrases and sentences.
- Sentences include more complex grammar.

Citations:

The Units of Language Acquisition- Ann Peters 1983, 2021; <https://communicationdevelopmentcenter.com/>
Language Acquisition and Communicative Behavior in Autism: Toward an Understanding of the 'Whole' of It- Barry Prizant, 1983; <https://barryprizant.com/>



Citations:

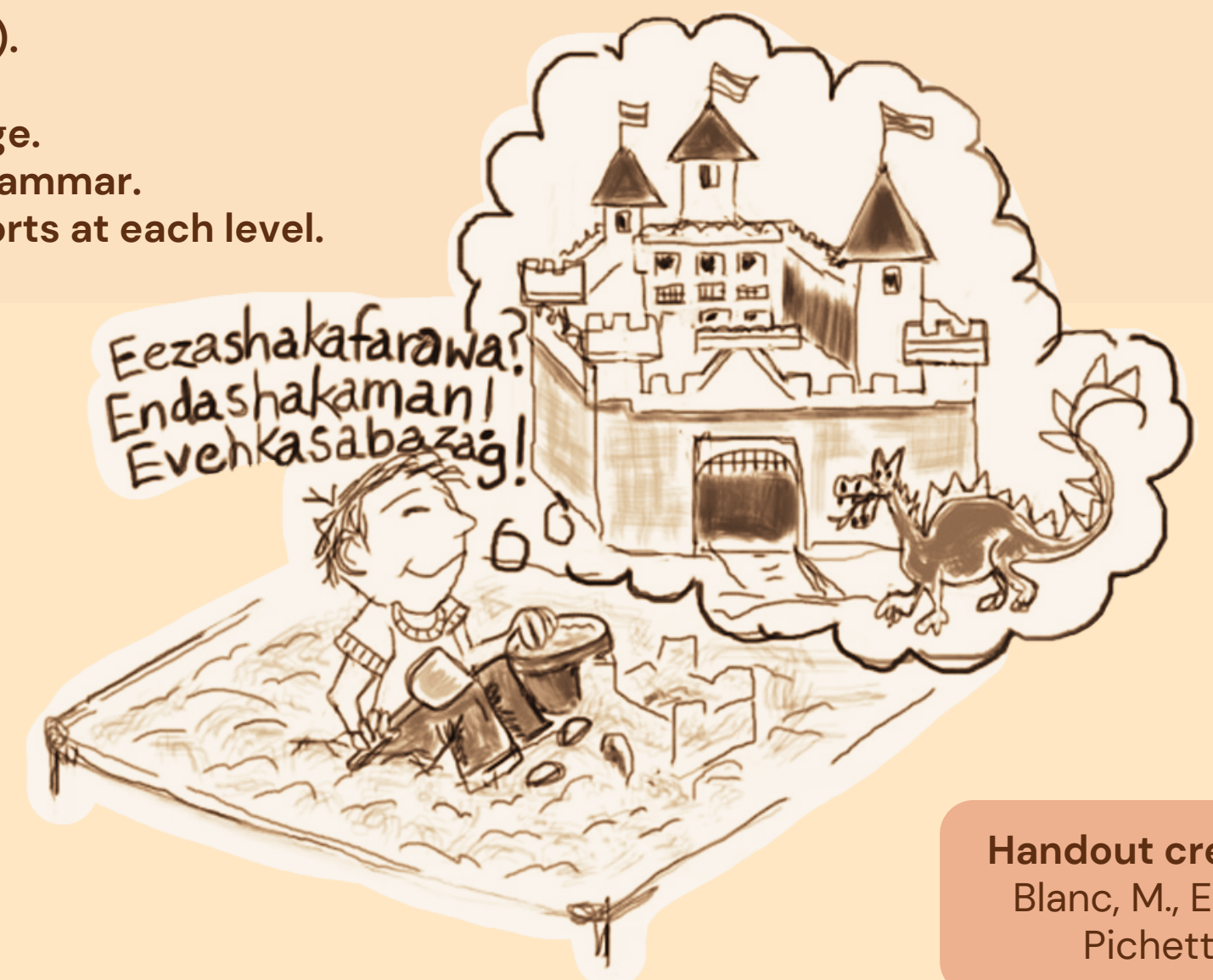
Finding the Words: To Tell The Whole Story- Marge Blanc 2005; <https://communicationdevelopmentcenter.com/>
Natural Language Acquisition on the Autism Spectrum: The Journey from Echolalia to Self-Generated Language- Marge Blanc 2012

NATURAL LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

- Natural language acquisition describes and details the four stages of gestalt language development identified by the researchers cited above, and includes two more stages of grammar development.
- NLA is supported by clinical research spanning years of language development in children (M. Blanc, 2005/2012).
- NLA supports the communicative intention of the gestalt.
- NLA describes how language chunks / gestalts are broken down and recombined into new, more flexible language.
 - It describes how language is then broken down into single words, which are later combined with emerging grammar.
- NLA presents the stages of language development, explains assessment, and, more importantly, explores supports at each level.

* GESTALTS

- Gestalts can be of any length ('Wow!' 'Come on!' 'I can't believe it!' 'To infinity and beyond!' 'Abcdefg' 'Happy birthday to you')
- Long gestalts may be unintelligible and mistaken for babbling.
- Gestalts do not need to be spoken to be part of language development.
- Gestalts can be language heard at home or school ('Hi how are you! I'm good' 'It's time to go you gotta clean up').
- Gestalt scripts can be derived from songs, movies, advertisements, YouTube clips, stories, nursery rhymes, and other media, including sources in another language ('c'est la vie' 'vamonos').
- Gestalt language processing is common in both neurotypical and neurodivergent language development.
- Gestalt language processing can co-exist with analytic language processing in very young children.



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