Supporting
GESTALT LANGUAGE PROCESSORS

ACKNOWLEDGE COMMUNIQUÉS

Acknowledge all attempts at communication, including unintelligible speech.
Personalize your acknowledgement to keep the conversation going:
- repeat the intonational pattern/melody, word/sound
- reply in a way that honors the individual (smile, nod, match their pitch, take a turn, or provide the next line)

LOOK FOR MEANING

Familiarize yourself with the language/communication that the individual is already using. Use resources such as family members and others on the child's team to learn the individuals's favorite shows, movie clips, songs, and phrases used most often throughout the individual's day.

MAKE CONNECTIONS

Create connections between verbalizations/vocalizations and related experiences so you learn the functions of the communication. These connections help support greater intentionality.
The child's language may not always be literal. so detective work can be an ongoing process.

ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE

Consider incorporating sensorimotor activities to support regulation.
Set up the child's AAC device to support their language/communication.
Create a natural environment incorporating the child's interests.
If in a school setting, include regulation and NLA principles within the IEP accommodations. Inform teachers and other team members to ensure collaboration.

OFFER NEW LANGUAGE

Talk naturally, and model new language within experiences that matter to the individual
New language should be individualized for the GLP, and modeled with rich intonation.
If the child has language for a specific experience, use their language in novel, but similar situations.
Offer easily mitigable, natural phrases (e.g. begin with 'Let's', 'That's', 'It's', 'I'm', 'Where's')

CONSULT

Contact others on the individual's team to confer about the Stage the individual is mainly operating in. and what to look for next.
Create an ongoing, accessible list of language the individual uses.
Provide examples of language models and strategies so everyone is on the same page about GLP and NLA