



Early support for Gestalt Language Processing:

An evaluation of a parent education workshop

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Introduction

Delayed echolalia is a hallmark of Gestalt Language Processing (GLP). Within the Preschool Speech and Language Program at Grandview Kids, Speech-Language Pathologists and Communicative Disorders Assistants observed that existing pathways needed to address the needs of Gestalt Language Processors. Informed by parent-coaching models, the team developed a parent-mediated intervention pathway for GLP.

Methods

Participants attended one of five virtual parent education workshops, which were 2.5 hours in duration and offered virtually. Data were compiled from a post-workshop evaluation survey. Parents also self-reported their child's GLP stage before and after receiving in-depth information about GLP stages. Data were anonymized, and descriptive statistics were used to identify the change in understanding, awareness and application of strategy.

Results

124 parents participated in workshops between November 2022 and September 2023. Encouragingly, parents reported significant improvements in their understanding of language development, heightened awareness of effective communication strategies, and a notable ability to apply them in everyday interactions with their children.

Discussion

Parent education and intervention on echolalia and GLP are emerging priorities in early language acquisition. This small-scale evaluation demonstrates positive outcomes that must be replicated through a rigorous study. Additional research is required to develop a reliable outcome measure to determine stages of GLP in preschool language learners.

Education on Gestalt Language Processing (GLP) can increase self-reported knowledge and application of supportive strategies in parents.



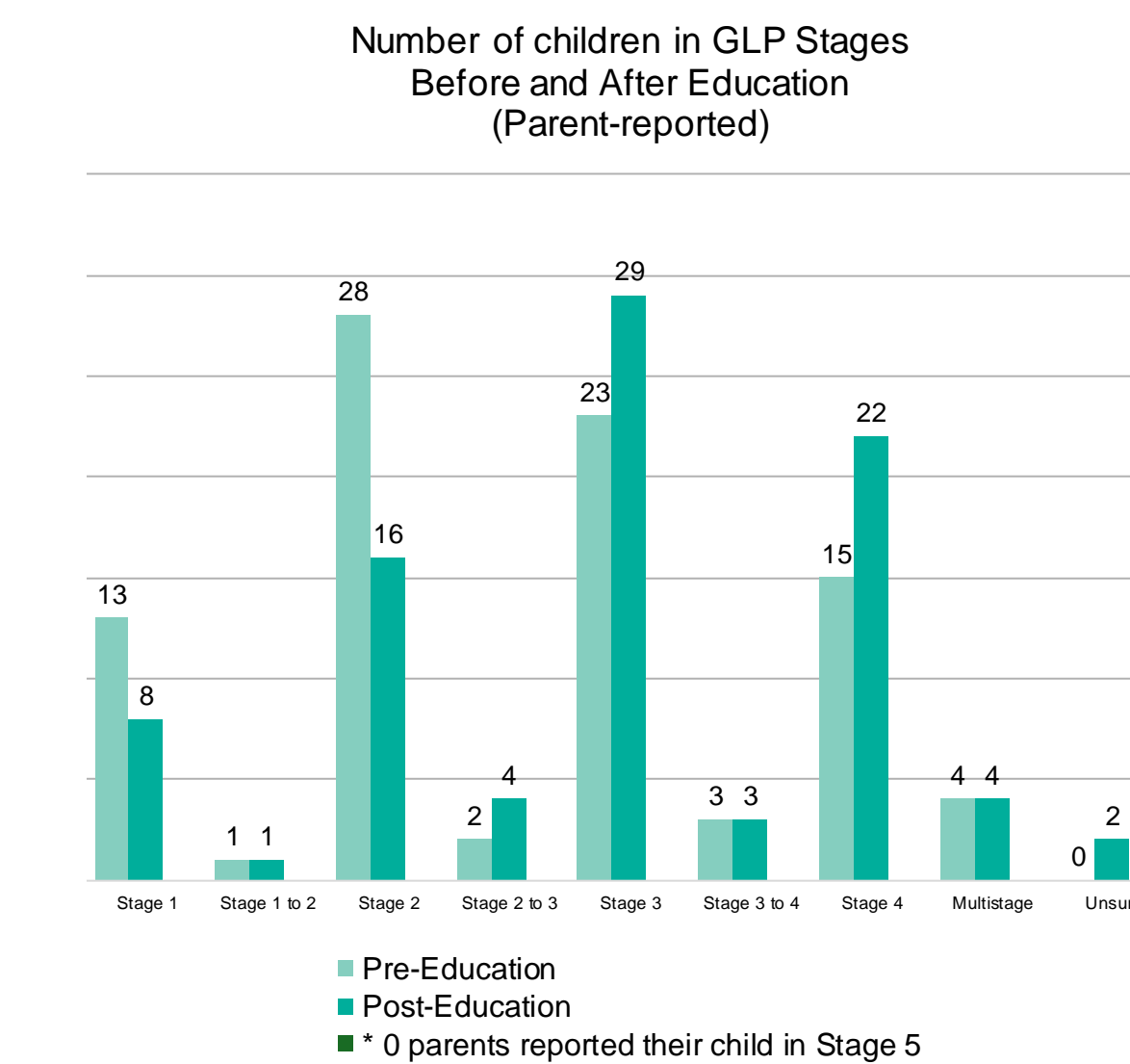
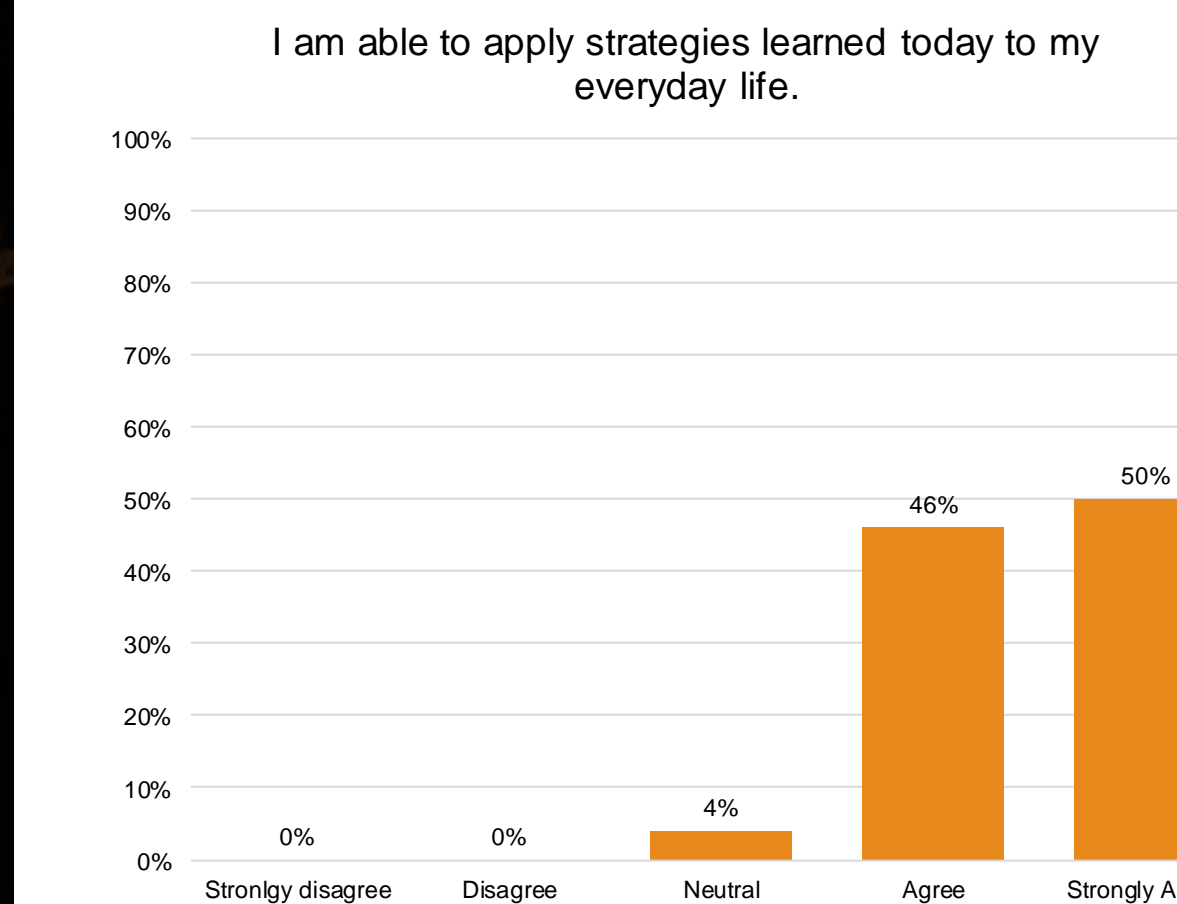
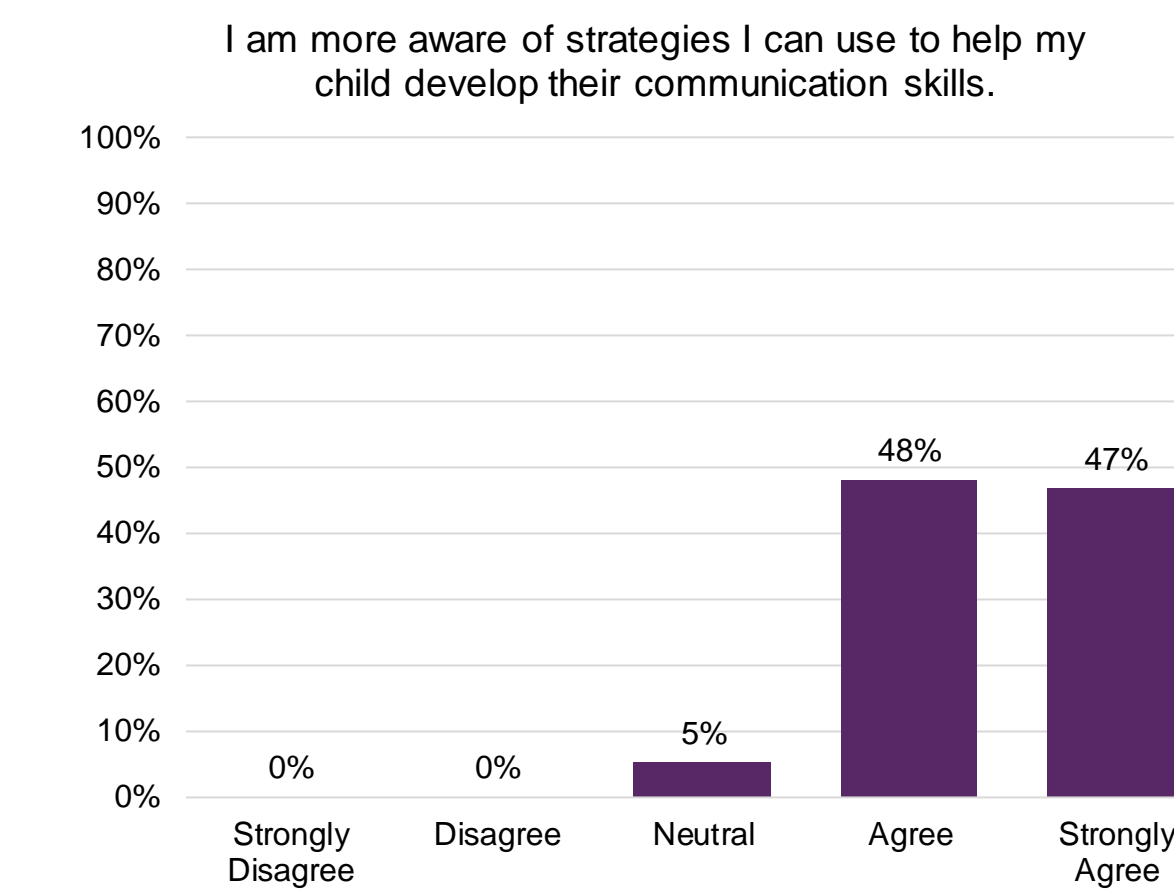
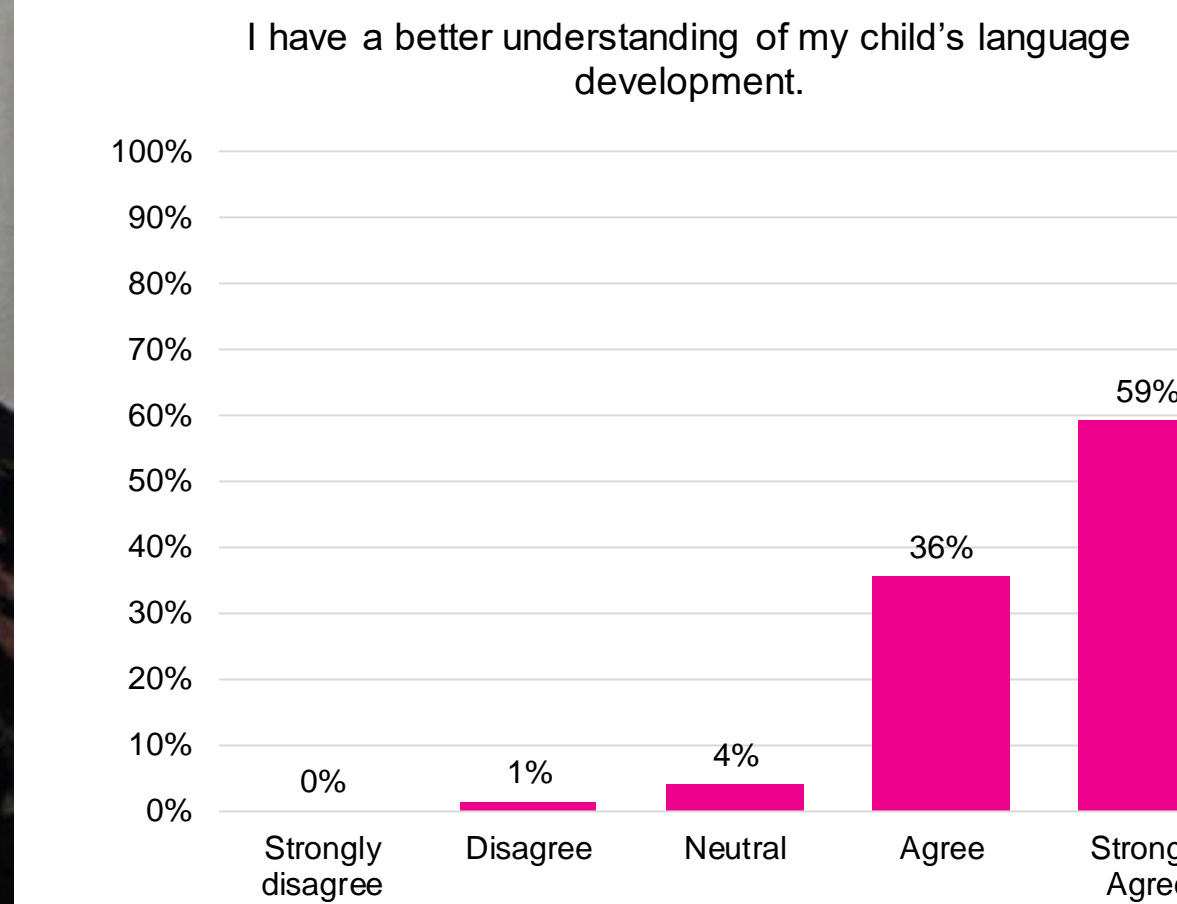
Key findings

A majority of participants agreed or strongly agreed that after the caregiver-mediated workshop:

"I have a **better understanding** of my child's language development." (95%, n=72)

"I am **more aware** of strategies I can use to help my child develop their communication skills." (95%, n=72)

"I am **able to apply** strategies learned today to my everyday life." (96%, n=73)



Scan to learn more about our team's approach to supporting Gestalt Language Processors. Connect with us by emailing Research@GrandviewKids.ca.

