


Echolalia: Learning Language Through Scripts

Module 2 – What is echolalia?

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What is echolalia?


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Echolalia

- Repetition of what other people say
- **Immediate echolalia** happens when your child repeats language (or part of what is said) immediately after hearing them.
- **Delayed echolalia** (also known as scripting) occurs when your child repeats a chunk of language that they have heard after some time has passed.



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Echolalia

- **Interactive**
 - Used when interacting with another person
 - Used to send a message that has meaning (which might not match the literal words)
- **Non-Interactive**
 - Used during down-time or independent play
 - May be the child rehearsing OR self-soothing

Grandview K4r 4

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Echolalia (Scripting)

Can be different lengths:

- Single words (e.g. "More", "Cookie", "Spiderwebs!")
- Phrases / sentences (e.g. "Are you okay?"; "To infinity and beyond!"; "You gotta clean up!"; "Paw patrol is ready for action!")
- Larger chunks: songs, books, etc.

Grandview K4r 9


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What kinds of things does your child say?
Does your child use echolalia / scripting?




Grandview K4r 10

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What do you currently DO or THINK when you hear your child using echolalia?




<p>You might:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask a question to clarify • Ignore the echolalia or not respond • Repeat what they said • Model more appropriate language 	<p>You might THINK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My child does not understand • My child doesn't know what words to use • My child is just stimming • How can I make it stop? • What is my child trying to say?
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Common Misconceptions

-  A child is using delayed echolalia as a **verbal stim** and we should **ignore it**
-  Scripting has **no communicative intent** and should be stopped
-  Delayed echolalia or scripting is not part of "**normal**" language development

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