



## Tips for Modeling Language for Children who use Echolalia

A child using echolalia or scripting repeats or ‘echoes’ language.

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledge their echolalia or scripting Smile, nod, repeat back what they said, or continue the song</li> <li>Model language that <i>matches the moment</i>.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Model what you think your child means</li> <li>Model language around what your child is interested in</li> <li>Make a comment natural to what's happening</li> </ul> </li> <li>Focus on commenting</li> <li>Invite a response by pausing</li> <li>Exaggerate intonation (sing-song voice, singing)</li> <li>Model for all the reasons we use language (examples below)</li> <li>Model from your child's perspective or voice (what they would say if they could). This might look like:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'I' sentences: ('I love that one,' 'I'm thinking about lunch', 'I need help')</li> <li>Your joint perspective ('We gotta...', 'Let's find...', 'We're making...')</li> <li>A neutral perspective ('It's time for lunch,' 'That's funny!' 'There's another one,' 'Where did it go?')</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't use "Say..."</li> <li>Don't demand a response</li> <li>Be cautious with questions. Your child may just copy the question instead of answering. If you ask a question, try to model the answer too! For example: "hmm what is in there? It's a duck!"</li> <li>Don't ask testing questions like: "What's this?", "Is it a ___?", "What colour is ___?", "What does a ___ say?", etc.</li> <li>When your child has already sent a message to ask for something, don't ask "do you want ___?". Try to model from their perspective instead (e.g., "I want ___").</li> <li>Be cautious with using 'you' as it can be confusing. Try to model from their perspective instead. For example: if your child reaches for their water bottle say "I want water" instead of "do you want water?". Try changing "you look so cute" to "I love that cute hat".</li> </ul>

<b>Fantastic Sentence Starters to model language</b>	
I'm...	I'm so excited; I'm gonna eat lunch; I'm done; I'm ready; I'm tired; I'm coming; etc.
Let's...	Let's run!; Let's go outside; Let's stop; Let's look at that; Let's play; Let's get a snack; Let's find it, etc.
It's / that's	It's so pretty; It's mine; It's scary; It's time to go; It's not working; That's funny; That's not it; That's too loud, etc.
We / We're	We can get more; We can go now; We're a great team, etc.
Look at	Look at that car!; Look at the snow!; Look at the colours, etc.
This is...	This is fun!; This is silly!, etc.



**Examples of Sentence Starters to Model Language for Different Reasons:**

To Comment	To Protest/Reject	To Request
I see... There's... It's... I wonder... That's... Look at... So many...	I don't like it Stop doing that I don't want it Eww no... I can't /won't... Don't touch... No... Not... That's not...	Can I... I wanna (I want to)... Need help... Come help... I can't... I wonder...
To Transition	To Self-Advocate	To Share Joint Attention/Joy
Time to... We need to... I'm ready for... Let's go/stop/try... What's next? It's ___ time All done... We're going... How about... Gotta... (Got to)	I wanna stop I need a break It's too ... (e.g., It's too loud) Don't... / I don't... I don't like that Stop it I need... My turn... Wait... I can...(e.g., I can do it)	I love... I like... It's so much fun... I'm so excited/happy... I did it... We did it... Look... Wow... Yay... So happy...
To Engage in Joint Action/Play/Routines	To Express Surprise/Exclamations	To Ask for Help
We did it! Let's do it again!	Wow! That's... No way!... That's funny!	Help me I need some help
To Share Feelings/Emotions	To match the time of day...	
I'm... I feel... It's so... It's too... Yummy... Uh oh... Ouch... That's really...	Let's have breakfast. I'm hungry. Let's get clean pants. I need to go potty. It's potty time. It's time to wash our hands. Let's go!	Let's play! It's snack It's nap time /bathtime/ bedtime! Let's read a book. I'm ready for bed.