

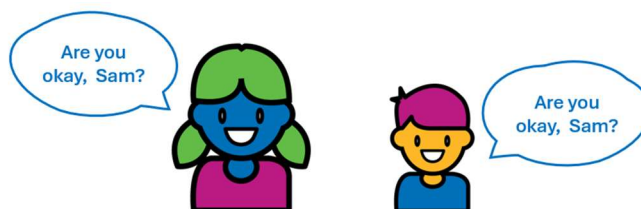
What is Echolalia?

Echolalia means 'echoed' or **copied language**. Echolalia is when a child repeats words or phrases that they have heard from other people, videos, stories, or songs.

There are two types of echolalia:

Immediate echolalia

- This means repeating words or phrases straight after they have been heard.
- The child might repeat the whole sentence or just a part of it.
- Immediate echolalia is often a part of typical language development for young children.
- Children can use immediate echolalia for a variety of reasons as they learn new words. For example, they might use it to give themselves more thinking time or to take a turn in the conversation if they don't know how else to respond.



Delayed echolalia

- This means repeating words or phrases at a later time. This may be hours, days, or even months after they first heard the word or phrase.
- The words the child says **might not match** what they really mean. Delayed echolalia can seem 'random' or out of context but usually has meaning for the young person.
- Children who use delayed echolalia are sometimes referred to as **intonation babies**. They are often more interested in the rhythm or intonation of speech, than the specific sounds or words. Some children may repeat a phrase with the same intonation/rhythm but not the right sounds. It may sound like they are 'speaking in their own language'. They may be more likely to repeat phrases that have interesting 'singsong' intonation.
- Children can use delayed echolalia **for communication**. When we tune in to the child's echolalia, we can often work out what they are communicating to us.



Echolalia is a stepping stone to more flexible language!