

WHAT IS ECHOLALIA?



Echolalia is a repetition of words and phrases said by others. 'Echo' mean 'to repeat' and 'lalia' means 'speech' or 'talk'.

Echolalia is a natural part of speech and language development in children upto the age of three.

TYPES OF ECHOLALIA



Interactive

The child is trying to communicate with others.



Non-Interactive

The child is not trying to communicate with others.



Immediate

Occurs immediately after hearing others speak.



Delayed

Occurs hours, days or weeks after hearing others speak.

Function of echolalia

Echolalia can be a tool for communication, a form of self-stimulation, a means of enjoyment or a calming mechanism.

Management of echolalia

Echolalia can be used to build communication with the help of speech therapy, occupational therapy and behavioral therapy.

TIPS TO BUILD COMMUNICATION USING ECHOLALIA



- **Use limited vocabulary** - Use familiar words and short sentences when talking to your child.
- **Limit 'wh' questions** - Limit open-ended questions like, "What do you want to eat?" Ask choice questions like, "Do you want to eat ___ or ___?" and questions with "Yes" or "No" answers instead.
- **Use visual cues** - Demonstrate what you're saying with actions and point to objects you're talking about.
- **Model conversation** - Model a conversation by asking someone a question having them respond with a short sentence in simple language.



75% of children with autism use echolalia to communicate so it should not be discouraged or suppressed in children with autism.