

Sometimes echolalia is immediate and the child is echoing the words they hear. Is Late Speech Always an Autism Trait? Echopraxia Echolalia is sometimes confused with a term that sounds similar— echopraxia. Echolalia and palilalia are not limited to autism; in fact, palilalia tends to be seen more in Tourette's syndrome, Parkinson's disease, and seizure disorders. For example, a child watches an episode of "Sesame Street" and later that day they recite the interactions between Bert and Ernie or sing a line from the theme song. Palilalia Palilalia is a speech disorder that's marked by the involuntary repetition of words and phrases. How Speech Therapy Helps Autistic Kids Related Behaviors and Conditions There are some other behaviors and conditions that are similar to echolalia that may occur in autism. Palilalia often involves increasingly rapid speech with the same repeated sounds. An autistic child may have echopraxia, but it also occurs in Tourette's syndrome. However, instead of using an original phrase in the flow of normal conversation (like "yes, please," or "I'd like lemonade"), the child echoes the precise language. A child may also use Ernie's words intentionally, or the words are just repeated sounds. One difference is that in echolalia, the repetition or echoing is focused on other people's words and is received when the child hears them. In echopraxia, a person repeats a movement that they see another person doing. However, they are not doing it intentionally—it's more like a reflexive action that they may not even be fully conscious of. For example, they see a person scratch their head and they automatically move to scratch their head, too. However, scripting is generally an intentional strategy. For example, an autistic child might repeat a catchphrase from a character on a TV show when they're talking with their classmates because they are not sure what to say. For example, a caregiver asks the child, "Do you want a drink?" and the child responds with "You want a drink." The inability to switch pronouns is common. The child might be responding appropriately and may actually want a drink. Echolalia can also be delayed. In delayed echolalia, there's a distance between hearing and using the words. In that sense, it is like echolalia but there are some key differences. Scripting Scripting is another tool many autistic people use. It's a little like echolalia since they are saying words or phrases that they heard somewhere. Palilalia can even be a side effect of some drugs.