Echolalia

Autistic children often use echolalia when speaking, which is the repetition of words or sentences from familiar people or media.

Immediate echolalia happens right after hearing the words, while delayed echolalia happens later on, which can be difficult to interpret out of context.

We can try to understand the message by considering where the child heard the phrase before, the contexts they are using it in, and their body language and gestures. Echolalia is part of gestalt language learning, where children learn language in chunks.

Ways to Develop Language

- listen to what your child is saying, acknowledge what they have said and then try to find the meaning
- make comments
- model new gestalts

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