



UNDERSTANDING *Scripting:*

A PATHWAY TO COMMUNICATION

♥ It's not just repeating words—
it may be how they connect with the world.



WHAT IS SCRIPTING?

Scripting is when a person repeats words, phrases, or parts of conversations they've heard before. It can come from TV shows, movies, books, or past experiences.



IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

Scripting does not mean a lack of understanding or intelligence. It can be a meaningful way to communicate, process, and connect.



SCRIPTING CAN BE...



Echolalia

Repeating words or phrases heard from someone else.



Gestalt Language

Using whole phrases or "chunks" of language as a unit of meaning.



Memorized Language

Recalling lines from shows, books, or past conversations.



A Communication Tool

A way to express needs, share thoughts, or connect with others.

♥ WHY IT HAPPENS



Helps with processing and understanding language.



Provides comfort and reduces anxiety.



Supports learning new words and phrases.



Helps connect when other words are hard to find.



Part of how many autistic individuals learn and communicate.

INSTEAD OF...

- ✗ Asking "Why are you saying that?"
- ✗ Telling them to "Stop saying that."
- ✗ Correcting or interrupting.

TRY THIS INSTEAD:

- ✓ Tune in to the meaning.
- ✓ Respond with interest.
- ✓ Build on what they say.
- ✓ Model natural language gently.
- ✓ Celebrate all attempts at communication!

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT

- ✓ **LISTEN & OBSERVE** – Look for the meaning behind the words.
- ✓ **JOIN IN** – Respond to their message, even if it's scripted.
- ✓ **EXPAND GENTLY** – Add a word or two to grow the conversation.
- ✓ **CREATE OPPORTUNITIES** – Provide choices and ways to communicate.
- ✓ **PRAISE & ENCOURAGE** – Every attempt to communicate matters!



DID YOU KNOW?

Many autistic individuals are visual, auditory, and pattern thinkers. Scripting can be a powerful bridge to language, learning, and connection.

THE BIG PICTURE

*"Scripting is not the end goal—
it's often the beginning of
expressing thoughts, feelings,
and building real connection."*



CAREGIVER REMINDER

Your patience, respect, and belief in their voice help open the door to deeper communication.



**YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE
EVERY SINGLE DAY.**



For more tips, resources, and support for families, visit:

lifeafterabaclassroom.com

♥ Understanding. Supporting. Empowering. ♥

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