Vocalization

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Synonyms

[Babbling](#); [Cooing](#); [Prelinguistic sounds](#)

Definition

Vocalizations are sounds produced by children before they learn to talk. For children with ASD, vocalizations may continue to be used throughout the life span, particularly if spoken language does not develop. Vocalizations can be divided into two categories: speech-like and nonspeech. Speech-like vocalizations include consonant and vowel sounds (e.g., baba, daba) and are often referred to as babbling or cooing. Nonspeech vocalizations are natural, vegetative sounds that do not resemble speech, such as crying, laughing, burping, as well as uncommon sound productions such as high-pitched

squeals and low-pitched growls. A higher frequency and longer persistence of atypical vocalizations has been found to be present in children with ASD and in infants at high risk for the syndrome, before spoken language emerges.

See Also

- ▶ [Babbling](#)
- ▶ [Prelinguistic Sounds](#)

References and Readings

- Patten, E., Belardi, K., Baranek, G. T., Watson, L. R., Labban, J. D., & Oller, D. K. (2014). Vocal patterns in infants with autism spectrum disorder: Canonical babbling status and vocalization frequency. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 44(10), 2413–2428.
- Paul, R., Fuerst, Y., Ramsay, G., Chawarska, K., & Klin, A. (2011). Out of the mouths of babes: Vocal production in infant siblings of children with ASD. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 52, 588–598.
- Schoen, E., Paul, R., & Chawarska, K. (2011). Phonology and vocal behavior in toddlers with autism spectrum disorders. *Autism Research*, 4(3), 177–188.