

Strategies to assist in Expressive Language

1. Do not force the student to answer questions even when you are certain he/she knows the correct answer. Do encourage them to give at least a partial answer.
2. Model how to answer questions correctly by establishing eye contact with the student and speaking clearly while maintaining eye contact.
3. When possible, set aside time to have casual and private conversations with the student. Practice will improve oral expression.
4. Allow the student extra time to respond orally.
5. Remember that recalling information is a relatively simple task. Talk with the student about what he/she did yesterday, ate for breakfast, named his/her pet, etc.. As language skills increase, begin to ask questions about what he/she thinks, feels, believes, etc..
6. Pose simple riddles or "knock-knock" jokes to the student. Encourage him/her to also tell jokes or humorous stories.
7. Have the student practice language skills by describing pictures or scenes. Challenge him/her to use adjectives and be specific.
8. Praise the student for answering questions in class.
9. Find out from parents, previous teachers, counselors, or friends, what the student is interested in. Find ways of working those topics into the conversation.
- 10 Assign the student to a desk near the teacher.
- 11 Have the student repeat instructions.
- 12 Assign two or three vocabulary words per day and encourage the student to use those words in daily conversations.
- 13 Teach the student new words and new ways to say the same old thing.
- 14 Play a game using a dictionary or thesaurus in which the student finds as many synonyms as possible for over-used words and phrases.
- 15 Play a game in which the student describes a simple design to a friend, and have the friend follow the student's instructions to draw the design (without looking at it).
- 16 If problems persist in the classroom, refer the student to the speech therapist.
- 17 When the student stops in mid-sentence or does not complete an expressed thought, add structure by saying, "..and then what happened.." etc.. Do not finish up sentences for the student or interrupt while he/she is speaking.
- 18 Discourage the student from using over-used and vague phrases such as "you know", "thing", or "nice". Challenge him/her to use language that is more precise.