**Listening**

* Model good listening skills.
* Use the home language for comprehension.
* Keep messages and directions short.
* Teach children how to listen, repeat messages, and ask questions.
* Have a listening library in the home language and in English.
* Summarize or provide key phrases of a story in a book, finger play, or song in the child’s home language before introducing it in English.
* Use language and literacy activities that contain repetitive refrains.
* Use running commentary when the child is engaged in an activity.
* Use multiple methods for scaffolding communication depending on the stage of English-language development of the child.
* Target both the content and English-language development in every activity.
* Observe preschool English learners during group time, storybook reading, and in small groups (to determine their progress in English comprehension and adjust expectations accordingly).

**Speaking**

* Learn how to pronounce the child’s name as accurately as possible.
* Learn some key words or phrases in the child’s home language.
* Repeat common phrases slowly and clearly to the child.
* Allow the child to start slowly.
* Allow for wait time.
* Scaffold communication by combining English words with some type of body gesture or visual cue.
* Be thoughtful about helping children understand what words mean.
* Plan for vocabulary development.
* Expand and extend the child’s language.
* Create small groups for book reading.
* Ask a family member or knowledgeable community resource to share appropriate social conventions for the child’s language and culture.
* Observe the child during drop-off and pick-up for cues.
* During circle time or small-group time, talk to children about the different ways they greet adults and other children in their families.
* Listen appreciatively to children’s stories.
* Ask open-ended questions and sustain the conversation over a number of turns.
* Help children understand idioms.
* Provide materials that help stimulate talking or oral narratives.
* Provide wordless picture books.