

## **Descriptions of the Stages of Second Language Acquisition**

### **Four Stages of Second-Language Acquisition**

Children do not necessarily follow these stages in a linear fashion; they often move in and out of these stages depending on the types of supports available to them in any particular interaction or setting.

#### ***Home Language Use***

- Children use home language
- Teaching Tip: Activities should focus on listening comprehension
- Teaching Tip: Activities should build receptive vocabulary

#### ***Observational and Listening Period***

- Children communicate with gestures and actions
- Teaching Tip: Activities should expand receptive vocabulary
- Teaching Tip: Activities should be designed to motivate children to produce vocabulary which they already understand

#### ***Telegraphic and Formulaic Speech***

- Children speak using one or two words or short phrases
- Teaching Tip: Activities should expand receptive vocabulary
- Teaching Tip: Activities are designed to develop higher levels of language use
- Teaching Tip: Introduce language experience activities

#### ***Fluid Language Use***

- Children speak in longer phrases and complete sentences
- Teaching Tip: Activities should expand receptive vocabulary