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| **English Language Development Strategies** | |
| **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 |
| **Reading** | |
| * Expose children enthusiastically to all types of print (e.g., magazines, billboard sings, books, posters) | * Connect Literacy to home culture and community |
| * Build on exiting strengths to help learn new English vocabulary | * Use read-alouds in small groups |
| * Connect print material to children’s interests | * Invite children to discuss and react to story narratives |
| * Encourage children to dictate, retell, and create their own books | * Point out print features during shared reading |
| * Point out print features during shared writing | * Equip all learning areas with books and writing materials |
| * Help children create their own books | * Point out the meaning of print around the classroom and in the community |
| * Have lots of clear print in multiple languages in the environment | * Engage children in purposeful writing |
| * Have children identify the letters of their own names in any language | * Provide English alphabet letters in multiple forms (e.g., magnetic letters, wooden letters, paper tracing letters, letter stamps, and alphabet charts) |
| * Read alphabet books in multiple languages | * Sing silly songs that can be phonetically manipulated |
| * Sing songs, recite poems, clap rhythms, and do finger plays that emphasize rhymes daily. | * Identify and practice English sounds that do not exist in the home language |
| * Use real objects and emphasize syllables and phonemes | * Play games that emphasize the first sound of compound words |
| **Writing** | |
| * Look for opportunities for adult- and peer-mediated conversation about writing by using the child’s home language to initiate this discussion | * Link writing to listening and speaking so English learners can draw from other language strengths. |
| * Focus writing activities on literature | * Supply learning areas with writing materials |
| * Have children dictate their own short stories |  |