

Language Development Stages: Sample Behaviors in the Classroom

Stage	Sample Student Behaviors	Sample Teacher Behaviors	Questioning Techniques
Pre-production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Points to or provides other non-verbal responses * Actively listens * Responds to commands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Gestures * Language focuses on conveying meanings and vocabulary development * Repetition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Point to... * Find the... * Put the ___ next to the ___. * Do you have the ___? * Is this a ___? * Who wants the ___? * Who has the ___?
Early Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * One-word utterances * Short utterances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Asks questions that can be answered by yes/no and either/or responses * Models correct responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Yes/no (Is the trouble light on?) * Either/or (Is this a screwdriver or a hammer?) * One word response (What utensil am I holding in my hand?) * General questions which encourage lists of words (What do you see on the tool board?) * Two-word response (Where did he go? To work.)
Speech Emergence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Participates in small group activities * Demonstrates comprehension in a variety of ways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Focuses content on key concepts * Provides frequent comprehension checks * Uses performance-based assessment * Uses expanded vocabulary * Asks open-ended questions that stimulate language production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Why? * How? * How is this like that? * Tell me about... Talk about... * Describe * How would you change this part?
Intermediate Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Participates in reading and writing activities to acquire new information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Fosters conceptual development and expanded literacy through content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What would you recommend/suggest? * How do you think this story will end? * What is the story mainly about? * What is your opinion on this matter? * Describe/compare... * How are these similar/different? * What would happen if...? * Which do you prefer? Why? * Create.