



LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION & EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE

EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION CHEAT SHEET

Why is this skill important?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Comprehension is the ability to understand language that is communicated to children. • Expressive Language is the ability to express wants, needs, and ideas. • Both of these language skills help children develop vocabulary and they learn background knowledge through vocabulary, which helps them understand what they read.
How long and how often?	<p>These strategies can be embedded throughout the day in routines, activities, and interactions.</p>
How to Teach this Skill	<p>The University of Kansas provides a manual with with eight communications strategies (listed below):</p> <p>How to Use this Manual Entire Manual (includes all sections below)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arranging the Environment 2. Asking Open-Ended Questions 3. Commenting and Labeling 4. Following A Child's Lead 5. Giving Praise & Positive Attention 6. Imitating and Expanding 7. Providing Choices 8. Time Delay/Fill in the Blank <p>To begin using these strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, identify which of the eight strategies you already use in your center? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How can you enhance this? ○ How might you observe these strategies in actions? • Second, identify the strategies you want to introduce in your center. We recommend selecting 1-2 strategies to add at one time. After educators have mastered these strategies (as observed across multiple activities and settings), then add additional strategies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third, identify a tracking system to monitor the frequency of these activities. You could ask teachers to self-assess: daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or quarterly. You can also conduct observations: weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or quarterly. <p>Teacher Self Check (can also be used as Teacher Observation)</p>
Suggested Connections	Because these strategies are designed to be embedded in children's daily routines, you can connect them to virtually anything that you're doing.
Prep & Materials	Read through the Promoting Communications Manual beforehand and apply the strategies to the plans for your day. You can also use the activity cards for quick reference.
Considerations/ Differentiation	<p>The manual includes resources for families. Consider how you might teach and model these strategies with families. You could share the activity cards and model strategies with families during one-to-one conversations, phone calls or during training.</p> <p>See Parent Check resources below.</p> <p>Parent Self Checks in English</p> <p> All Strategies Following the Child's Lead Commenting and Labeling Imitating and Expanding Asking Open-Ended Questions Giving Praise and Positive Attention Providing Choices Time Delay/Fill in the Blank </p> <p>Parent Self Checks in Spanish</p> <p> All Strategies Following the Child's Lead Commenting and Labeling Imitating and Expanding Asking Open-Ended Questions Giving Praise and Positive Attention Providing Choices Time Delay/Fill in the Blank </p>
Sources	TALK (Tools for Advancing Language in Kids), University of Kansas