

Strategies for Effective Teaching and Learning

Teaching Language Skills

The teacher's use of effective teaching strategies will help students with language difficulties gain the concepts and content that they need for success in content-area classes. Key strategies that can be used in teaching language concepts or patterns include the following:

- Gear the activities to the student's interests and cognitive level.
- Get the student's attention before engaging in communication activities.
- Bombard the student with the concept or skill frequently throughout the day in a functional manner.
- When speaking, place stress on the target concept or language pattern.
- Pause between phrases or sentences so that the student has time to process the new concept or language pattern.
- Decrease the rate of presentation when first introducing the concept or language pattern.
- When introducing a new concept or language pattern, use familiar vocabulary that can be readily visualized.
- If possible, present the new concept or language pattern by using more than one input mode (e.g., auditory, visual, kinesthetic). Gestures and facial expressions that are paired with a specific language pattern often assist students in understanding the form. For example, giving a look of puzzlement or wonder when asking a question can serve as a cue to the students.
- Pair written symbols with oral language. For instance, demonstrating morphological endings such as *-s* (plurals) and *-ed* (past tense) can be done in writing. The students can then be cued to listen for what they see.

SOURCE: S. Vaughn, C. Bos, and J. Schumm, *Teaching Students Who Are Exceptional, Diverse, and at Risk*, 8th ed. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, 2014), p. 200.