Strategies for Promoting Communication

- **Modeling**: When a child communicates nonverbally, say what he/she would have said.

- **Expanding**: If the child makes a sound or says one word or a few words, expand these into longer phrases or sentences slightly more complex than what the child said.

- **Labeling**: As children are engaged in experiences, talk about and describe what they are doing.

- **Asking Questions**: Use open-ended questions relevant to children’s experiences.

- **Listening Before Responding**: After asking a question or making a comment, wait for a child to communicate, listen to what they have to say, and then respond.