Stages of Language Acquisition

Think of a student in your class at this level. How might you have to modify to help them understand and communicate? How can you ensure their learning?

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| **Preproduction** | Minimal comprehensionDoes not verbalize0-6 months | **Teacher might say:**Show me…Circle…Where is the … |
| **Early Production** | Limited comprehensionProduces one to two word responsesUses key words and familiar phrases6 months – 1 year | **Teacher might say:**Yes/no questionsWho…?What…?How many…? |
| **Speech Emergence** | Has good comprehensionCan produce simple sentencesMisunderstands jokes1-3 years | **Teacher might say:**Why…?How…?Explain…?Questions requiring phrase or short answer. |
| **Intermediate Fluency** | Excellent comprehensionFew grammatical errors3-5 years | **Teacher might say:**What would happen if…?Why do you think…?Questions requiring more than a sentence response. |
| **Advance Fluency** | Student has near-native level of speech.5-7 years | **Teacher might say**:Decide if…Retell.. |

\*\*From *Strategies that Work with English Learners*, by Jane Hill and Catherine Bjork, 2015.