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?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Preproduction** | Minimal comprehension  Does not verbalize  0-6 months | **Teacher might say:**  Show me…  Circle…  Where is the … |
| **Early Production** | Limited comprehension  Produces one to two word responses  Uses key words and familiar phrases  6 months – 1 year | **Teacher might say:**  Yes/no questions  Who…?  What…?  How many…? |
| **Speech Emergence** | Has good comprehension  Can produce simple sentences  Misunderstands jokes  1-3 years | **Teacher might say:**  Why…?  How…?  Explain…?  Questions requiring phrase or short answer. |
| **Intermediate Fluency** | Excellent comprehension  Few grammatical errors  3-5 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.