

Module 6: Promoting Communication in the Home

Section: Responsive Language Modeling



Activity 6.1: Using Coaching Techniques to Support Families in Exploring How to Facilitate Their Child’s Language and Communication

A. Review with families the following concepts described in Module 6 related to responsive language modeling:

- Describe what the child is doing.
- Respond immediately to the child’s needs.
- Recognize the child is making communication attempts.
- Focus on building comprehension.
- Set high language expectations.
- Expose the child to natural language using real-life communication exchanges.

Add to the discussion using the [Tips for Language Modeling and Language Stimulation](#) handout from this module.

B. Observe the family during natural play to see what they do and how they communicate. Include the following coaching techniques:

- Point out what the family is already doing to support the strategy (e.g., “I noticed that you made sure you were in front of Maria and she could see your face and hands when you were playing. That was great!”).

- Point out missed opportunities to include a strategy (e.g., “That would have been a perfect time to show Max the sign for *hungry*.”).
- Be encouraging and give parents lots of positive feedback. Some parents may feel self-conscious in practicing these strategies.
- Encourage parents to practice the technique during the week before your next home visit.
- Obtain feedback from the family about what worked or did not work for them in implementing a strategy. Find out what they learned while practicing a strategy with their child.

Add to the discussion using the handout from this module, [Tips for Interacting with a Baby Who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#).

- C. Every family is unique. Think about each family individually and build upon their strengths. Ask the family to show you typical daily activities in their home. Take time to understand how this family and their relationships work. Ask respectful questions to learn about what is appropriate and comfortable for this family. Be creative in providing families with ideas on how to incorporate responsive modeling strategies while still honoring any unique cultural practices and values of the family.
- D. For families who speak a language other than English:
- Have an interpreter available to translate both the child’s utterances and the parents’ responses. It makes coaching easier when you can understand what the family is doing.
 - Encourage the family to use similar techniques in their native language.

Additional Resource:

- [Closing the Gap When Working with Spanish-Speaking Populations](#) (EHDI E-Book)

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