Strategies for Promoting Communication

Modeling

--When a child communicates nonverbally, say what he/she would have said

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

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

Asking Questions

--Use open-ended questions relevant to children's experiences

Labeling

--As children are engaged in experiences, talk about and describe what they are doing