

## **BASIC EMT COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES IN THE CLASSROOM**

1. **Let the child know you are listening.** Get on the child's level, get face to face, let him know you are interested and available to talk.
2. **Join the child** in his activity: play rather than watch, mirror and map.
3. **Notice when all kids are communicating** with words, gestures, and actions. Watch and listen!
4. **Respond with words!** Match the vocabulary of your response to the child's language level.
5. **Match the length and content of your response to the child's communication skills.** Use rich vocabulary, extend the topic with higher communicators and simplify words and shorten sentences with early communicators.
6. **Talk about what the child is communicating** (what he wants, what he is doing, what he feels/experiences).
7. **Keep the conversation going.** More child turns are better.
8. **Ask REAL questions.**
9. **Give children choices.** Allow child to make a choice of activities or specific actions. Follow through on the child's choice with conversation and access to activity.
10. **Catch them being good.** Comment on what you like, ignore what you don't like.
11. **Give every child a chance to talk:** Distribute your attention. Give reluctant talkers more opportunities.
12. **Help kids talk to each other.** Pair and share, practice together.
13. **Use instructions when they really count.** Less is more effective.
14. **Respond more and prompt less!**