



Activity #1

AN INDIVIDUAL LANGUAGE GOAL

Goal of activity: to develop strong skills in selecting appropriate individual language goals.

Materials needed: Language Progression Chart (pages 10-11), a description of a child (or several different children) to present to the group, flip chart and markers.

Directions:

1. Describe a child to the group. This child can be imaginary, but a child that is real and well-known to the group will generate more meaningful discussion. (If available, a video clip of this child using language would be very helpful.) In your description of this child, include:
 - ◆ A general assessment of the child's language skills, including identified language delays. (For a child learning multiple languages, describe his or her skill level in each language.)
 - ◆ Child's age,
 - ◆ How s/he communicates with others,
 - ◆ Whether s/he gestures, uses one word, simple or complex sentences,
 - ◆ Concepts s/he understands,
 - ◆ Concepts s/he seems to struggle with, and
 - ◆ Activities that engage the child.
2. Distribute copies of the Language Progression Chart (see pages 10-11) to the group. You may want to do a quick overview of the chart and its uses (see page 9).



3. Break into small discussion groups (3-5 people) to discuss the following:

- ◆ Where on the continuum of the graph do they see the child described?
- ◆ What would be the next appropriate language goal to focus on with this child? Would it be best to reinforce or enrich an area that the child is currently working on, or move on to a new concept?

4. Return to the full group and record the language goals each group generated.

Further discussion:

- ◆ With a chosen goal in mind, what specific word or words would you choose to say to the child to highlight your goal?
- ◆ With this child in mind, where do you see opportunities throughout the day to highlight this goal?
- ◆ How does this child's level of language learning fit with the rest of the class? Is it possible to address the child's individual needs within the context of group curriculum?

