Functional Language Development Hierarchy

Internal Sense of Self: Uses language to reflect internally on how actions affect others/self

Comparative Thinking: Can compare/contrast events/books

Multi-Causal Thinking: Uses language to problem solve, express past/present, connect actions to emotions

Analytic/Logical Thinking: Using language to pretend, answer Wh?, ask why?

Creative Use of Ideas and Symbols: Using words to express needs and label items

Shared Social Problem Solving: 50+ circles of communicational exchanges with gestures and turn taking

Simple Two Way Gesturing: follows eye gaze of others, communicates with shared attention, looks at choices, likes cause/effect toys

Engaging and Relating: shares attention to objects, cooing and smiling with caregiver, exhibits shared sense of emotion with others

Being calm and interested in the world: Will move to look at caregiver's face, shared attention, calm and regulated

Adapted from Stanley Greenspan DIR Model

Speech Language Literacy Lab, LLC
Sl3contact@gmail.com