Barriers to Speaking

Children communication/speech is affected by various barriers. These are some of the barriers suggested by your predecessors. Go through them and see whether they are all valid and suggest some more:

(i) Lack of appropriate vocabulary – they do not have the right words for various concepts, object and phrases.
(ii) Underdeveloped articulators – vocal cords, pharynx, voice box and lips.
(iii) Lack of appropriate meaning for certain concepts
(iv) Lack of exposure – they do not have enough opportunities to use the language. No chance to talk at home.
(v) Lack of understanding of the message
(vi) Environmental distractions.
(vii) Speech disorders such as cleft palate
(viii) Lack of turn-taking skills
(ix) Lack of role model in speech
(x) Intelligence level – their mental capacity is limited, meaning, they know little hence cannot express themselves.
(xi) Social-emotional status such as anxiety, fear and so on.

Handling Barriers to Speaking

You as a teacher or caregiver must come up with strategies to help children overcome barriers to speaking

(i) Caregivers should be role models – being as an example to show children what you expect them to imitate.
(ii) Use of Child Directed Speech (CDS)
(iii) Removing distractions such as noise and other competing sounds.
(iv) Provide enough opportunity for the child to speak to others.
(v) The caregiver should try to identify the problem in speech, then he/she should refer the child for check-up.
(vi) Training the child to speak
(vii) Encouraging speaking/speech interactions