Bilingual children who do not speak to communicate are in a position to teach us the most about communication, and yet are often the most neglected and overlooked in both bilingual education, special education, and general education discourse(s). Rather than ‘fixing’ children’s communication practices, we must turn the lens on our own perceptive practices. Families have rich and dynamic communication systems that they create to navigate daily life together. We often tell parents and caregivers to carry over specific skills and strategies that are taught to their children in classrooms and provider sessions, but rarely, if ever, do we encourage educators to carry over strategies that are occurring in the child’s family and community. This talk centers on case studies of families of nonspeaking bilingual children to demonstrate the vibrant communication systems families create and to provide blueprints for educators to best support and perceive these young children.