



CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM

Offer Opportunities for Children to Make Choices

During the infant 2 video, the baby's signals were unclear. Initially, he looked away from the table, but the teacher was patient, prompted the baby, and waited for his signal. He turned his head toward the table and reached for the cup, letting the teacher know he wanted to continue drinking from his cup.

Practice applying these strategies as you work with young children:

- Provide choices, two for infants and up to three for toddlers.
- Provide enough time for the child to make a choice.
- Watch for the child's signals.
- Prompt when signals are unclear.

When you are finished, reflect on the following questions:

1

What did you say to prompt the child to make a choice?

2

Was the prompting helpful? How?

3

How does offering opportunities for children to make choices support their social and emotional development?

4

What could you have done differently to help the child make a choice?
