



CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM

Explain What Comes Next

During the toddler 2 video, the teacher uses a transition to help the child understand what was about to happen next. Transitioning from one activity to the next one can be difficult for young children because they have to stop something they may be enjoying and then shift their focus of attention to something else. The teacher prepared the toddler for what was coming next by saying, "It's almost time to go inside. We're going inside to have a snack. Everybody said they were hungry at circle." She explained what was happening next and connected it to what the children said earlier in a previous activity.

Practice applying these strategies as you work with young children:

- Use explanations to help children prepare for and understand what is happening next.
- Use simple language when transitioning to the next activity.
- Connect explanations to children's experiences (e.g., "It's almost snack time. Earlier you said you were hungry. It's almost time to eat.").

When you are finished, reflect on the following questions:

1 What did you say to the children to explain what was happening next?

2 How did they respond? Did your explanation help the children understand what they would be doing next?

3 How did you connect what was coming next to a child's personal experience?

4 What could you have done differently to help the children understand what was happening next?
