

CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM

Maintain Children's Attention

In the toddler 2 video, the teacher is encouraging the children to play with the dolls. When teachers maintain children's attention, they can support children to continue playing with activity for a longer period of time without too many distractions. The teacher in the video maintains interest by:

- following the children's lead
- labeling the play
- narrating the children's action
- pointing out how to wash the dolls
- playing enthusiastically with the children

Practice applying the key strategies demonstrated in this interaction on your own:

- Notice what the children are interested in doing.
- Play actively with the children.
- Encourage the children to continue to play.
- Label, explain, narrate, and point out specific details about what the children are doing.

When you are finished, reflect on the following questions:

1 What did you do to follow the children's lead during the activity?

2 How did you label, explain, or narrate the play?

3 What was challenging? What were the roadblocks to maintaining children's attention?

4 What could you have done differently to maintain children's attention?

