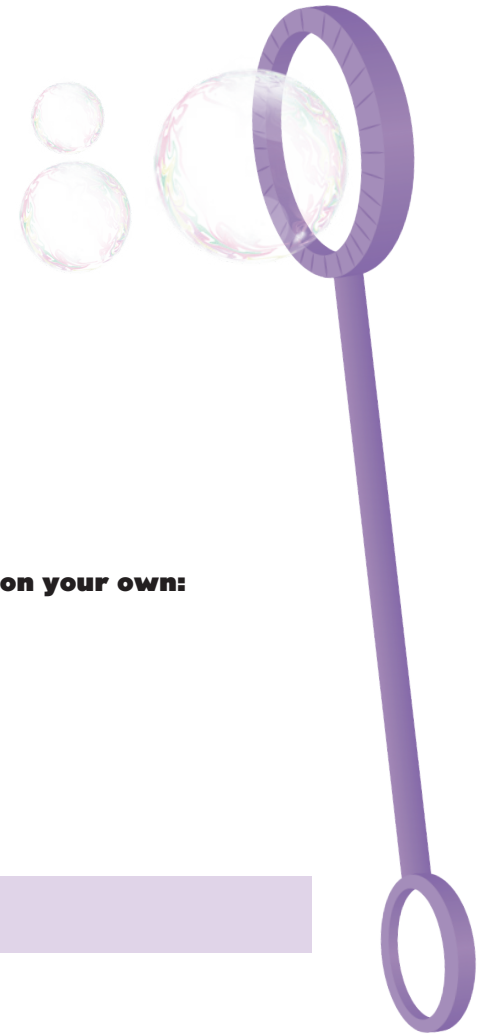


## CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM

# Encourage Imitation



In the toddler 2 video, the teacher is helping a child follow a sequence of actions for pretending to wash dishes. When teachers join children in play, they can use natural opportunities to encourage imitation. The teacher in this video did this by:

- Following the child's interest in pretending to wash dishes
- Demonstrating a sequence of actions
- Encouraging and praising the child's efforts to imitate

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

- Pay attention to what the child is doing.
- Demonstrate additional actions or words to expand on the child's play ideas.
- Be enthusiastic and pause to allow the child to imitate.

### **When you are finished, reflect on the following questions:**

**1** What nonverbal cues did you use to encourage imitation?

**2** What did you say that encouraged the children to imitate the action?

**3** What was challenging about encouraging imitation?

**4** What could you do differently to encourage imitation?