

CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM

Model and Join in Pretend Play

In the toddler 3 video, the teacher is playing pretend. When teachers join in pretend play, they can model actions and use words to expand the play. Eating and drinking in a playful way will encourage children to play along. The teacher in the video encourages pretend play by:

- encouraging the child to complete actions and explore other play foods
- responding promptly to the child
- labeling a drink "apple juice"
- narrating the child's action

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

- model how to pretend play
- use props and dress-up clothes
- pretend about experiences that children are familiar with or show interest in (e.g., shopping, cooking, riding a bus, going to the doctor)

When you are finished, reflect on the following questions:

1

What did you do to encourage pretend play?

2

What vocabulary did you use to encourage the play?

3

What was challenging?
What were roadblocks to modeling and pretending?

4

What could you have done differently to model and encourage pretend play?

