

## CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM

# Promote Flexibility in Thinking

During the toddler 2 video, the teacher promotes flexible thinking by preparing the child to transition from the playground back to the classroom for snack. She helps the other children by singing a clean-up song. She prepares the children for this transition by:

- providing advance notice with an explanation
- offering a suggestion for how to prepare for the transition
- accepting the child's response
- informing the child about what she will do instead of counting down
- using a clean-up song to help cue children

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

- Offer children ways to prepare for a transition.
- Encourage children to think of different ways to solve a problem or complete a task.
- Plan activities that require memory or problem solving.
- Explain why their schedule is changing, and give reminders ahead of time.

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

**1** What did you do to promote flexible thinking?

**2** How did your activity encourage children to think flexibly?

**3** What was challenging? What were roadblocks to providing flexible thinking opportunities?

**4** What could you have done differently to encourage flexible thinking?

