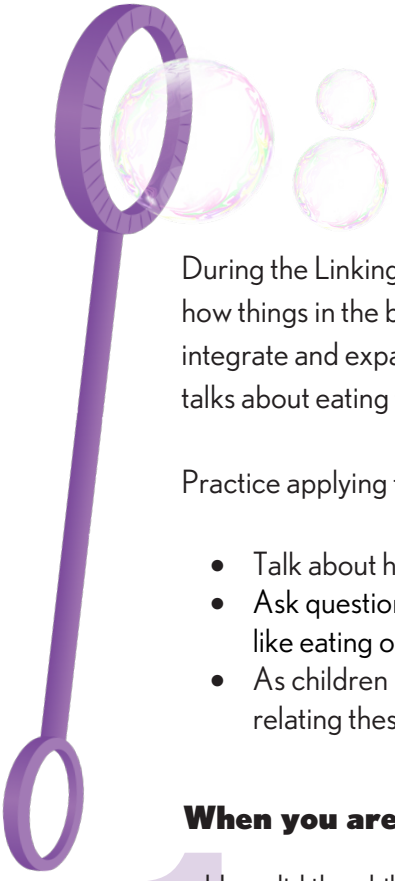

CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM
Linking to Experiences

During the Linking to Experiences Toddler 1 video, the teacher takes time to talk with the child about how things in the book relate to her own experience eating watermelon. This strategy helps children integrate and expand new information they are hearing in books. During the book read the teacher talks about eating the watermelon, and the child relates it to her mommy buying ice cream to eat.

Practice applying these strategies to keep children interested in books on your own:

- Talk about how things in the book relate to children's own experiences.
- Ask questions about things that happen in the book and how they relate to something at home, like eating or sleeping.
- As children remember events at home and talk about them, continue the conversation by relating these experiences to what is happening in the book.

When you are finished reflect on the following questions:

1. How did the children link the book to their home experiences? What did you say or do to help the children link to their experiences?

2. What questions did you ask to help children link to their experiences? How did the children respond?

3. How did you specifically relate their memories of events back to the book? How was this challenging?

4. What was challenging? What can you do better next time? Try these next time.

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