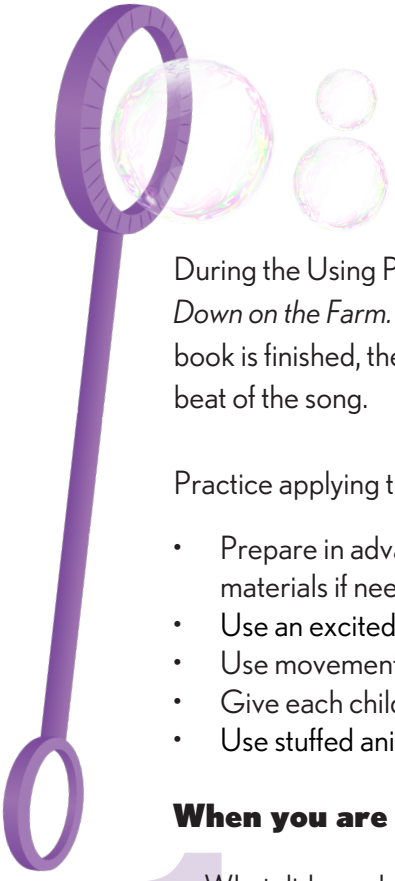

CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM
Using Props & Extenders

During the Using Props & Extenders Toddler 1 video, the teacher first reads and sings a book called *Down on the Farm.* The teacher and children talk about turkeys while reading the book. When the book is finished, they do an extender activity using an exercise ball to bounce the children to the beat of the song.

Practice applying these strategies for using props and extender activities on your own:

- Prepare in advance: choose a book, think of a fun activity that connects to the book, and gather materials if needed.
- Use an excited tone of voice and involve the children in the activity.
- Use movement and clapping as quick and easy ways to engage children.
- Give each child a turn to participate.
- Use stuffed animals and puppets as a playful way to help keep children interested in activities.

When you are finished reflect on the following questions:

1. What did you do? Did you have fun and engaging materials? What did you use to encourage play?

2. Did every child have a turn? Why or why not? What happened to make it difficult for all to participate?

3. What materials do you need to invest in to plan more extender activities? What kinds of activities can you plan that do not require extra materials?

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

© 2017 University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

UTHealth The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

CHILDREN'S LEARNING INSTITUTE