

CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM

Encourage Conversations Activity

During the Continuing the Conversation activity video, the teacher encourages conversation by exploring a magnifying glass with the child. She uses many verbal and non-verbal ways to expand the conversation.

Notice how the teacher used the following strategies to build the child's language and encourage a two-way conversation:

- Asked the children a variety of questions and listened attentively to responses
- Offered more information while using an engaging, warm tone of voice
- Encouraged the child to continue making conversation by positioning herself at his level, using eye contact, and gesturing

Practice applying the key concepts demonstrated in the Continuing the Conversation activity on your own.

- Begin by **positioning yourself close** to a child or group of children during outside time or in centers.
- **Ask questions** using an **interested tone of voice** and **listen** for their response.
- Offer **more information** and **focus** and **look** at the child/children.
- **Point, hold objects**, and **demonstrate** so that children can learn more.
- Encourage children to continue to **share their ideas** through **back-and-forth turn taking**.

When you are finished reflect on the following questions:

1 Did you position yourself on eye level with the children? How did this help them focus?

2 What questions did you ask? Did the questions help the children understand more?

3 What non verbal strategies did you use? Were they helpful? Why or why not?

4 What kind of additional information did you talk about? Did it hold the children's interest longer?

