



# Take a look at more verbal play with toddlers

## Listening and Transitions

To help with transitions in Ella's toddler class, she and Mike, the center's early interventionist, make up some listening games. These help focus the children. When it is time to move from one activity or location to another, Ella or Mike starts a game. One of them says to the whole class, "If you can hear the sound of my voice, clap your hands." The adult claps once to demonstrate. Soon all the children begin clapping. They are then given the next instruction, "If you can hear my voice, put your hands over your head." The game goes on with different movements until all the children are focused and participating. Sometimes Mike and Ella change the game by whispering instead of talking, or using only hand movements or silly movements. The children know this game means they are about to do something new. The adults even see the toddlers imitating the game with each other.



## Rhyme Time

Eloi, 30 months old, is working on a bear puzzle with his home visitor, Dave. The three bears are Eloi's favorite characters right now. As Eloi works on finding the right puzzle pieces, he sing-songs quietly, "Bear, bear, bear." He looks up and says, "Bear, hair." "You're rhyming, aren't you?" Dave asks. "Do bear and pear sound the same?" "Bear, pear, bear, pear" Eloi says. "All the same." "What about bear and dog?" Dave asks. Eloi laughs. "Not same," he says. They try out different rhyming and non-rhyming words as they work on the puzzles.

## Signs Aid 'Listening'

Maggie is a 32-month-old with a hearing impairment in an inclusive toddler class. Her early interventionist, Ms. Shannon, comes to Maggie's class to work with her. She is also helping Maggie's teacher, Mr. David, with his sign language. Maggie loves playing games at circle time. Mr. David plays a song about different animals. The children all imitate his signs along with the movements in the song. "Fly like a bird, everyone," Mr. David signs and says, and the children pretend to fly in their circle. The signing in this game allows Maggie to "listen" to the song's instructions. She can act out all the animal parts along with the other children. Ms. Shannon lets Maggie touch speakers to feel the vibrations and taps out rhythms on Maggie's arm. They also play together with different instruments.

