

V. Phonological/Phonemic Awareness for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers (contd.)

***Help Children Accept Limits:** Go to the child and get the child's attention; give reasons for the limits.*

***Encourage Children's Efforts to Accept Limits and to Be Cooperative or Helpful:** Encourage the behavior becoming "self-encouraging" (develop ways that a child will find new behavior so attractive that she will eagerly comply); observe children to determine whether they have learned what they need to learn and whether they have accepted a limit; recognize and encourage a child's efforts.*

We need to help participants go to the child, get on the child's level and remind the child of the limits, as well as the "why" of limits. This takes time and effort and will not be needed by every child (remember: "fair" is giving every child what that child needs). But, it takes time and effort to deal with a situation where a child behaves inappropriately, too! So, taking a minute to help the child who needs a reminder of the expectations for a particular activity *prior to the activity or at the start of the activity* saves time in the long run and helps the child to learn to behave appropriately – while managing her own behavior.

Point out when a child remembers and behaves appropriately. The child who has been pushing others to get to the front of the line to go outside needs to be praised and encouraged for getting in the line without touching others. The fact that the child is now near the front of the line makes this "self-encouraging." (When I get in line without pushing I get to be near the front rather than having to go to the back of the line because I pushed.)

Beware of the participant who says, "We shouldn't praise/reward children for doing what they are supposed to do." Hmm – and participants are attending your training sessions because it is what they are supposed to do? What about the training credit, books and materials? In the real world we get rewards, also!

These positive guidance strategies assist children in managing their own behaviors – a lifelong skill.