

Manages behavior in a group setting without causing disruptions

Activity: Attend story times at your local library to book store to practice sitting in groups and listening without fear of interrupting activities.

Why: Use these events to teach your child listening and group participation skills. The leaders of these events understand their audience members are learning and will be patient with interruptions.



Activity: Create a “personal” language with your toddler using words and gestures together. Examples can be holding your hand up and saying “stop”, a wave or thumbs up can mean “you’re doing great,” and pointing down can mean “sit down”. Make a game of practicing these words and signals with the actions they go with. Talk about times when you might use these and why.



Why: Young toddlers communicate primarily through gestures, so it helps to be “bilingual” when you are reinforcing a limit. This also helps communicate in a quiet setting or from across the room. Keep in mind your toddler may not respond the first or even the second time. It takes thousands of repetitions, hearing the words together with the actions, before the words alone suffice.