



**What Is My Child Learning?**

Your child is learning that you need to use your eyes, ears, and brain when you focus attention on something. Your child is also learning that saying things to yourself (self-talk) can help you pay attention.

**Why Is This Important?**

Being able to focus attention helps children be better learners.

Ask your child: **What can you do to help you focus attention?** Possible answers: Look at what you want to focus on. Use an attent-o-scope.

**Can you show me how to make and use an attent-o-scope?** (See directions at right.)

**What words can you say to yourself to remind you to pay attention?** Possible answers: Focus, listen, pay attention, look carefully.

**Practice at Home**

Before giving your child important information, let your child know that you really need his or her focused attention. Then ask your child to repeat what you said. For example:

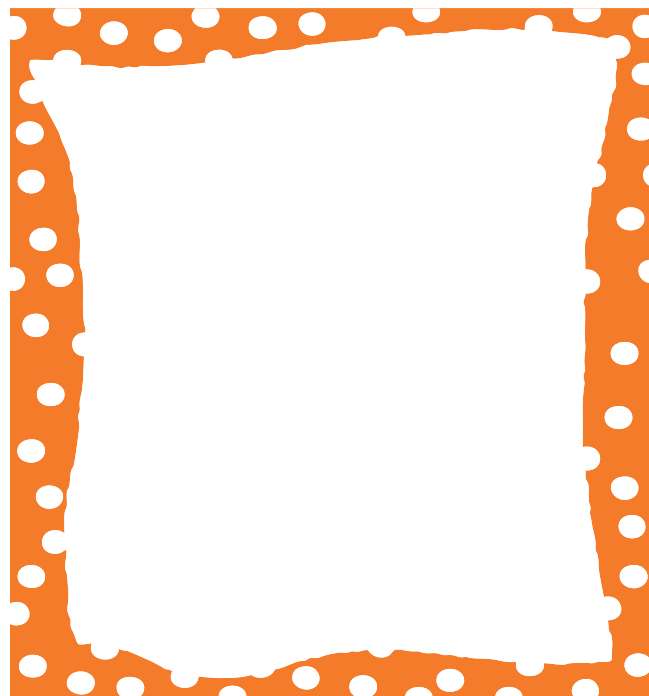
**This is important. I need you to focus your attention.** Pause for your child to focus. **Please give this note to your teacher. It tells her that I'm picking you up early from school today to go to the dentist. Now please repeat what I said.**



1. Cup hands around each eye like binoculars.
2. Say "Focus" or "Listen" to switch on the attent-o-scope.
3. Put down the attent-o-scope, but pretend it is still there.

**Activity**

1. Have your child pick an object in the room without telling you what it is.
2. Have your child give you one hint at a time about the object. Try to guess what it is.
3. Between guesses, give your child time to focus attention on the object so he or she can think of another hint.
4. After you guess what it is, have your child write the word or draw a picture of the object in the box provided.



(CHILD'S NAME)	(DATE)	(ADULT'S SIGNATURE)
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