

# Seeking Attention

## Primary Objectives

10b. Uses social rules of language

## Why It's Important

Children at this stage of development are just learning how to get their needs met. As a caring adult, a very important role you have is to reinforce your child's positive ways of getting your attention. Encouraging him to use new and more words in a request will help him understand the connection between language and getting his needs met.

## Materials

None

## What You Do

1. During the next snack time, you can suggest that your child use the words *excuse me* when he needs something or wants to say something.
2. Use the words naturally in conversation so that your child can model your behavior and the words to get others to pay attention to him. For example, when he wants more juice, you can request that he say, *Excuse me, could I have more juice please?*
3. Look for opportunities throughout the day to help your child practice his new way of getting your attention or seeking your help to resolve a conflict.
4. If your child throws something at you or takes something from you without asking, model the correct way for him to get your attention: *I don't like it when you do that, but if you just tap me on the back or say my name, I will answer you or help you.*
5. Try to anticipate your child's reactions to problems so that you can offer reminders in advance of your availability.