



**Recommended Slide Time:** 5 minutes

**Slide Purpose:** Strengthen child’s ability to concentrate on a single activity for at least 5 minutes.

**Lesson Point 1. In-class discussion: “Why is attention span and persistence important in school?”**

Answers may include: it accelerates learning; important to complete class projects and assignments; allows for participation in story time, class discussions and “show and tell”; helps in getting along with others and accomplishing goals.

**“What helps your child concentrate?”** Concentration grows with practice. Ask parents to share ways that have helped their child develop concentration. Parents provide opportunities for their child by directing their child’s focus (e.g. “Look at this,” “Please pay attention to...”), giving small responsibilities (such as feeding the cat or watering the plant), and being patient and positive.

**Lesson Point 2. Tools: ABC Floor Puzzle** (distributed for Target 2 on slide #8); **Books at home.**

**Lesson Point 3. In-class activity: Focus on puzzle.** Discuss the different levels of engagement (focus) the child may have with the puzzle. This is an excellent tool for building concentration. It allows the child’s attention to move between the shapes, colors and letter-sounds while staying focused on the puzzle. Is the child content to play with the puzzle independently, or does the child want to talk with you about the activity?

**Lesson Point 4. At-home activity: Focus on books.** Ask, “Why are books good for developing attention span? How?” Remind parents that selecting books that are age-appropriate and interesting to their child helps keep attention.

**Enrichment.** Suggest parents be aware of how many times they redirect their child during five minutes of play. If a child is having trouble staying on task at age four or five, parents may consider adding new or additional strategies. If the child has a disability (e.g. ADHD) expectations for persistence may need to be modified.