

LESSON 4

Interrupting

Getting Ready

1. Read through the lesson before working with the child.
2. Organize the materials you will need for the lesson:
 - Progress Chart
 - Items necessary for completing lesson activities
 - Pencil or pen for marking charts
 - Reward badge or other tangible reward
3. Arrange a work space that will best suit lesson activities.
4. Begin working with the child.

Note: Make sure you observe and chart the child's behavior for one week before you begin the lesson. You can then compare the first week's chart with those of the following weeks to determine progress. (For more information on charting, refer to "Monitoring Child Progress" on page 9.)

Directions

This lesson will help you learn how to break a child's habit of interrupting. Just follow these steps:

1. State the rule: "It is not polite to interrupt when someone is talking. If you wait until the other person is finished, you may speak."
2. If the child waits for you to finish speaking after you have reminded him, you should say "Thank you for waiting. What would you like to say to me?" Give him your full attention.
3. If the child sees you talking and does not interrupt you, give him a lot of praise. Be aware of when the child is behaving.
4. Whenever the child interrupts, quietly say "Please wait until I am finished." Say nothing more to him. Eventually just putting your finger to your lips should be enough to remind him to wait. (CAUTION: Never give in to his interruptions.)
5. Be sure to chart the child's behavior so that you can determine his progress. Use the Progress Chart on page 56.
6. Once the child has mastered the skills in this lesson, give him a reward badge or other tangible reward.

Remember:

1. Notice when the child is behaving.
2. Be specific in your praise.
3. Reinforce immediately.
4. Reinforce small steps.
5. Follow the three steps for teaching.
6. Be consistent.
7. Ignore misbehavior.
8. Create a "quiet area" and use it when necessary.
9. Set conditions.
10. Make effective demands.
11. Reason with the child only when he is behaving.



Adult Dialogue

The skills to be taught in this lesson will vary from child to child. For this reason specific adult dialogue is not included. A few examples, however, are provided which demonstrate adult interactions with children in a variety of situations:

Example 1: Stating rules and praising.

A: (Is talking with spouse in living room.)

C: (Bursts in and shouts.)

I can't open the peanut butter jar!

A: **Wait, please, until we are finished talking. Then one of us will help you.**

C: (Goes out quietly and waits.)

A: (Finishes talking.)

Thank you for waiting, Jane. Let's see about that peanut butter jar now.

Example 2: Praising for not interrupting.

A: (Is talking to neighbor at kitchen door.)

C: (Comes into kitchen, sees adults talking, and sits quietly at kitchen table.)

A: (Finishes conversation with neighbor.)

A: **Thank you very much for waiting so quietly, Bobby. Would you like to talk to me now?**

C: Can I have something to eat?

A: **Yes, you may. Would you like an apple or an orange?**

Example 3: Reminding and ignoring.

A: (Talking on telephone.)

C: Hey, Mom!

A: (Puts finger to lips.)

C: Can I go outside to play?

A: (Ignores child's question.)

C: (Sits down quietly and waits.)

A: (Finishes phone conversation.)

Thanks for waiting, Tom. Now what would you like to ask me?



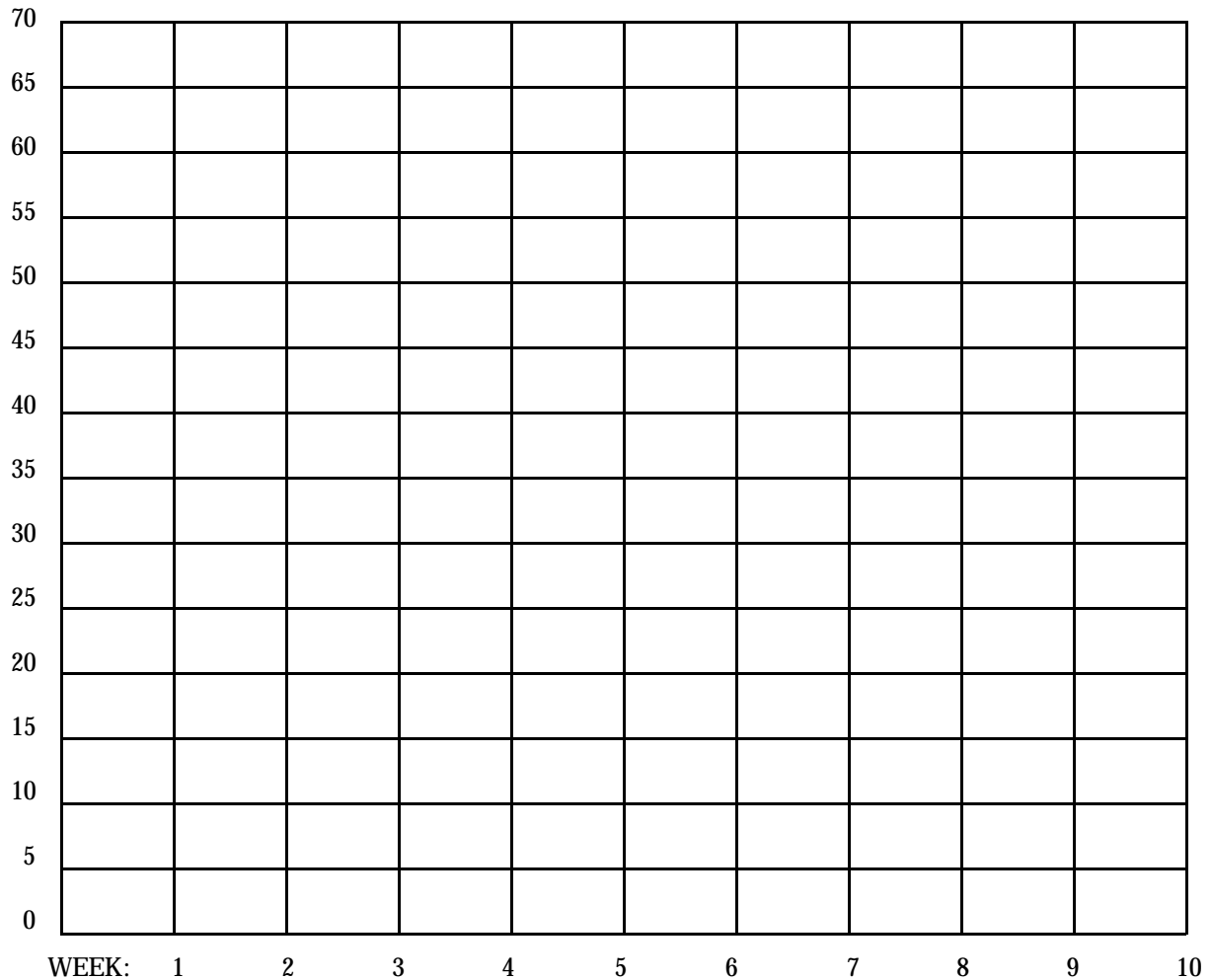
Progress Chart

BEHAVIOR: _____

Daily Tally

DATES	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT	SUN	TOTAL

Weekly Graph



WEEK: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

DATE: