



## CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM

# Saying No or Refusing to Participate

In this part of the module, you learned that "no" is often one of the first words toddlers learn. It is a powerful word because it asserts independence, self-defense, or control. A child might say "no" or refuse to participate when being asked to give up an object they are using, when being asked to stop a preferred activity and do something less preferred (such as getting their diaper changed), or when being asked to wait for something they want. This part of the module also discussed ways to prevent or minimize uncooperative behavior and ways to respond when children say "no."

As you care for toddlers during your next teaching day, pay particular attention to when they say "no" and refuse to participate.

**Think about your daily observations and interactions with children in the classroom as you respond to the following questions.**

**1** When do toddlers most often refuse to participate or start saying "no" during the day? What is going on in the classroom?

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**2** Why do you think the above activities or times of day are the hardest or least cooperative times for your toddlers?

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**3** What strategies from this module could you try using to encourage more cooperation in your toddlers during the above activities or times of day? Pick at least two strategies and list them here:

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**4** Try using each of the strategies you listed above every day for at least one week. Do you notice any changes, either for individual children or for your whole class?

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