Developing Attention Span.

1. Setting up the Environment:

   a. Choose a quiet area in the room.
   b. Eliminate distractions: i)turn off the t.v. ii)use visual barriers:i.e.
      bookcases, back of couch
   c. Set up work area with child-size chair and appropriate small table
      (i.e. coffee table or child's table)
   d. Use tray or placemat to create defined work space.
   e. Set up toy before child comes to table.
   f. Use completion toy (see following description). i.e. insert puzzle,
      stacking rings, shape sorter

2. Encouraging the Child to Join in Play:

   a. Provide child with a signal that play time at the table will begin, i.e. verbal
      warning, physical gesture.
   b. Give the child a piece of the activity, i.e. one stacking ring, or a picture of
      the activity to carry to the table.
   c. Sing a transition song while physically guiding the child to the table,
      i.e. "It's Time to Sit at the Table" to the tune of "The Farmer in the
      Dell".

3. Play Time:

   a. To show the child what to do, complete the first piece of the activity, i.e.
      put in the first piece of the puzzle.
   b. If the child needs help completing activity, provide physical assistance
      when needed, i.e. hand-over-hand assistance.
   c. Gradually increase the amount of time the child is expected to sit at the
      table with an adult. Start with a very short time period, i.e. 30 seconds.
   d. If child wants to continue play, let s/he repeat the task.
   e. If child loses interest before or after time expected, have child complete
      one piece of activity and then, let s/he finish. This keeps the activity
      positive for the child and teaches the child that limits are set by adults.