



## Taking Charge when Movement is Used in Classrooms *Management Tips from Martha Eddy, CMA, Ed.D*

### *Management Pointers:*

- *Decide* your objective (focus on what you are trying to accomplish with your students; notice if the children are engaged in learning; expand tolerance for a bit of noise or movement; breathe!).
- Be aware of what can be challenging for the students (e.g. accidents, experience results in too much giggling)
- Set clear frameworks:
  - set time frames and rhythms for activities (use songs!)
  - use place holders ('sitting spots') and space limits in the room (ex: carpet area only, not in study area etc);
  - select inclusive and clear language
  - involve learners in developing community guidelines\*
  - check for awareness of rules – do the children understand their agreements made with you or the rules you set up?

### *\*Establishing Community Guidelines:*

1. Considerations for making rules to help organize activities:
  - ❖ How do your students behave when they get out of chairs: they may need you to start with several lessons on Space Awareness/Personal Space bubbles
  - ❖ How do they best focus – use of occasional stretching breaks ('on the rug' or at seats) - finger dances, Relax to Focus© ([www.WellnessCKE.net](http://www.WellnessCKE.net))
  - ❖ Dealing with class size
    - Can your group of children handle partner activities
    - Split in Half groups for viewing of movement choices/dances

Creating groupings: Non-verbal Finding of Groups (use of puzzle pieces, matched cards from deck; subject on cards may be related to class content or not)
2. Talk with students about the rules you want to set
3. Set up visual or sound cues for when children need to stop or quiet down
4. Have a few reflective consequences for when they are not following rules
  - a. Be the observer for 3 minutes – report about how others are working
  - b. Have a peace space to quiet down in
  - c. Use finger along a paper drawing of a maze or mandala as others finish up

Explore different ways to assess learners including measures of kinesthetic intelligence: see Eve Selver-Kassell's rubric for Reading Comprehension. [www.WellnessCKE.net](http://www.WellnessCKE.net)