I created this visual after hearing this message at a conference-

When a child gets distracted by events occurring around them we often try to refocus them with verbal redirections. Often this is not effective and may take several attempts to get back on task. This may be due the fact that the child needs to finish the loop of what distracted them and if we interrupt they need to start the loop over. For example- You are working with a child and a class walks by the room. The child looks and needs to watch and does not get back to the task until the whole class has walked by. What we can do is to help by narrating the event- "It looks like Mr. Smith's classroom is in the hallway. It is 11:30 and they must be going to lunch. I bet they are hungry." You may need to repeat this each day until they can "finish the loop" on their own. So eventually when Mr. Smith's class walks by the child looks up and makes the connection and can return to the task faster. The visual is not for the child but for the adults to help remind us how to help some children process information.

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