

based on what they see or hear directly rather than on what they recall about objects and events (Box 11-1).

### **Box 11-1**

## **Characteristics of Preoperational Thought**

**Egocentrism:** Inability to envision situations from perspectives other than one's own

*Example:* If a person is positioned between the toddler and another child, the toddler (who is facing the person) will explain that both children can see the middle person's face. The young child is unable to realize that the other person views the middle person from a different perspective, the back.

*Implication:* Avoid moralizing about “why” something is wrong if it requires an understanding of someone else's feelings or opinion. Telling a child to stop hitting because hitting hurts the other person is often ineffective because, to the aggressor, it feels good to hit someone else. Instead, emphasize that hitting is not allowed.

**Transductive reasoning:** Reasoning from the particular to the particular

*Example:* Child refuses to eat a food because something previously eaten did not taste good.

*Implication:* Accept child's reasoning; offer refused food at different time.

**Global organization:** Reasoning that changing any one part of the