

## Matching Blocks 2

A little tiny difference can make a big difference especially when you look at words; the difference between 'eat' and 'cat' is only a small line on the first letter. In this activity you have to make patterns of blocks and make sure they are not different to your helper's blocks.

The blocks you need are supplied and you will need a transparent plastic sheet (lids from clear plastic containers work well).

### **Step 1. Make your blocks the same**

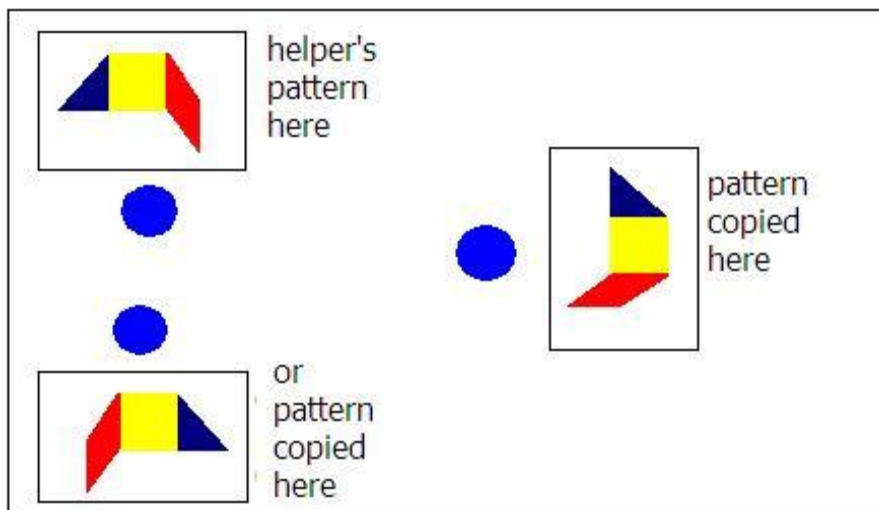
There are 6 different levels for this activity. Start at level 1 and make sure you don't progress to the next level until the level you are doing is easy. Your helper makes a pattern with the square in the middle and triangle and diamond next to the square (as in level 1 below) on a table or bench.

### **Match**

Stand in front of your helper's pattern and look at it carefully, so you can remember where each block goes in the pattern. Now you make a pattern the same as your helper's using another set of blocks, but you will make your pattern on another table or bench somewhere else in the room, **not** on the same table as your helper. So after you have looked at your helper's pattern walk across the room to another table and make the pattern. Make your pattern on a clear plastic sheet. Try to put each of your blocks in exactly the same position as they are in your helper's pattern. Your helper will put some Blu-tac on the back of each block so they stick to the clear plastic sheet.

### **Notes for helpers:**

It is best if they make their pattern on a surface that does not face the same way as the surface on which you have put your blocks, ie they should have to turn around to face their pattern.



So in the diagram above, your pattern may be in the top left corner of the room and could be copied in the bottom left corner or against the right wall of the room. The pattern has to be copied in a different place in the room to where your pattern is located.

#### Check

When you have made the block pattern, go back and stand in front of your helper's pattern again and have another look. Then go back to your pattern and make any changes you need. Now go back and stand in front of your helper's pattern again, look at it, then go back and change yours if you feel it is not the same. Keep moving from your pattern to your helper's until you think they are the same.

When you think your pattern matches your helper's blocks, pick up the plastic sheet with your block pattern on it and, making sure you keep the plastic sheet facing the same way, rest the lower edge of the plastic against your tummy. Walk over to your helper's pattern. Put the plastic sheet over the top of their blocks to see if they match.

Your helper will ask you if the two patterns are the same. If they are not, you will be asked to tell them any differences between your pattern and theirs.

#### Notes for helpers:

When the block pattern is not the same as yours, try to get some explanation of how the two block patterns differ. The language doesn't have to be complicated. Simple explanations like: **'the red triangle is facing the wrong way'** is sufficient.

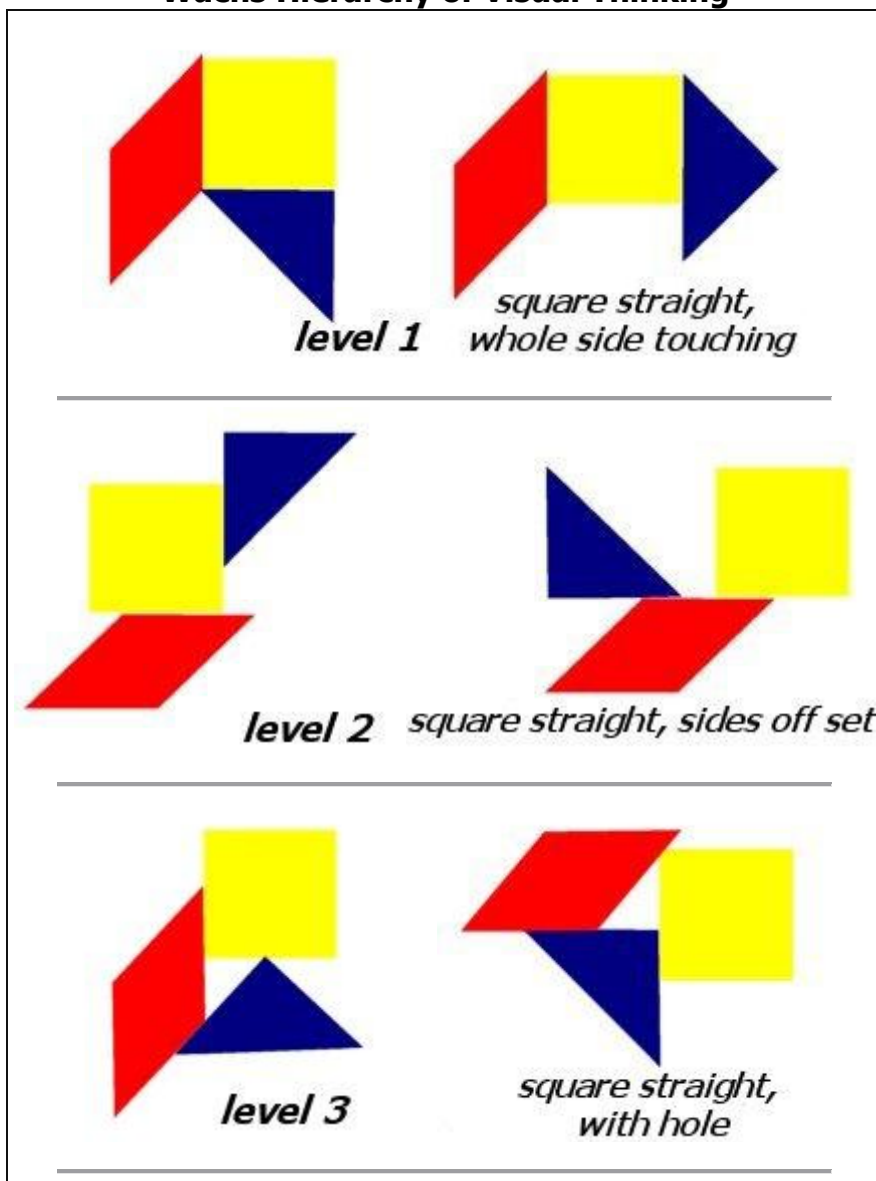
The two patterns must be **exactly** the same. The 2 block patterns must also **face the same way**, i.e. they must be in the same orientation - if their pattern has to be turned to match yours it is not the same. In levels 2, 4, 6, where the sides are staggered, the portion of one block where it touches the other must be exactly the same.

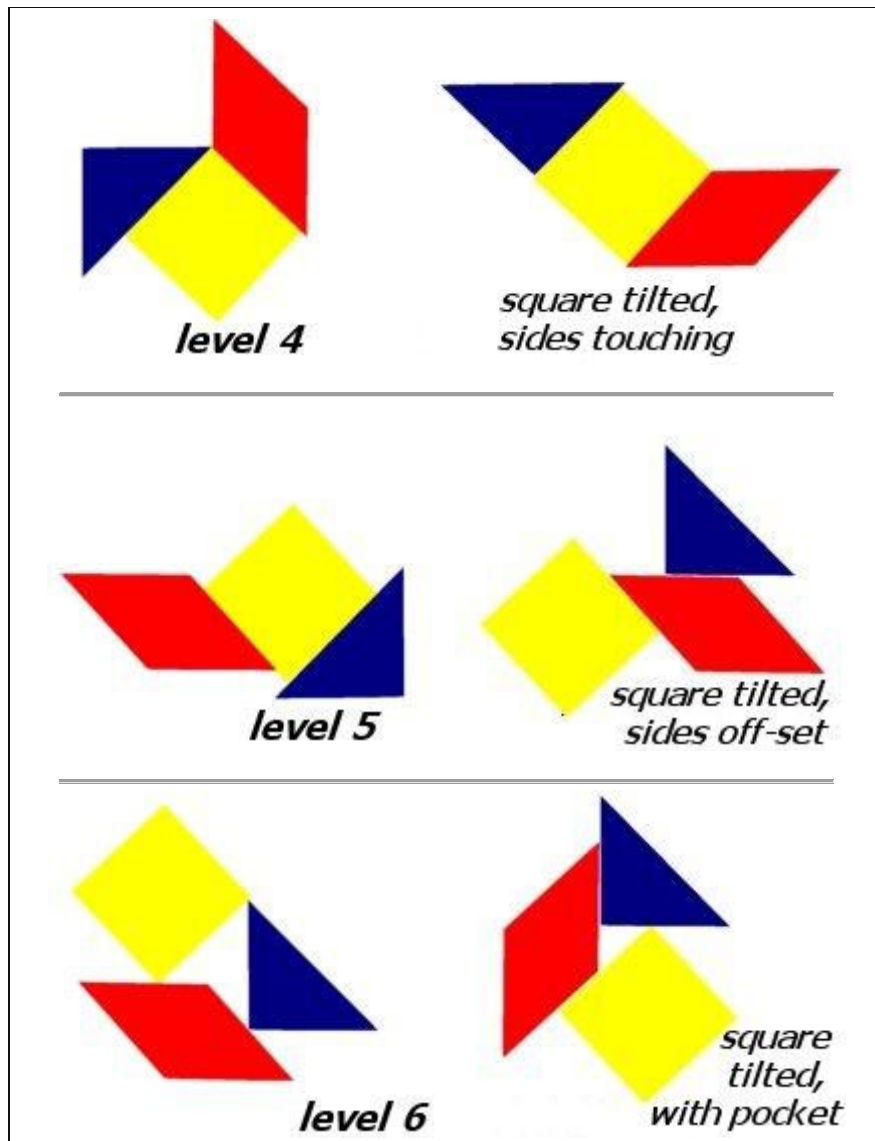
Match other patterns at the same level.

Continue working with patterns at the same level until you can match in two or three tries.

Proceed to the next level.

### Wachs Hierarchy of Visual Thinking





This hierarchy was developed by Dr Harry Wachs, OD. Washington DC and is used with his permission