

Feeling & Matching with Blocks

This activity works with your imagination. You have to feel a pattern of blocks that you can't see then match it with another set of blocks.

The blocks you need for this activity are included in your package that came with the CD that runs this program. You will also need some Blu-tac to stick the blocks to a surface.

Step 1. Feel the blocks and match

You need to sit at a table with legs tucked under it so you cannot see your legs. Place a hard cover book or folder on your lap.

Your helper makes a pattern on top of the folder using 3 blocks, a square, a triangle and diamond. Because the folder is under the table you can't see the blocks, but you can feel them. Stick the blocks to the folder with Blu-tac so they don't move.

Feel the blocks

Put your hands under the table and feel the pattern of blocks. Make sure you feel all over the blocks, the corners, the edges, and all the sides. You can take as long as you like, feel the pattern of blocks until you can get an "idea" of how the pattern of blocks looks.

Make the pattern

When you are ready, put both your hands on the table and make the pattern of blocks on the tabletop, so that it matches what you felt. You must make the whole pattern using the triangle, square and diamond, arranging them next to each other. When you have finished, feel the pattern again on your lap to check that the pattern you are feeling matches the pattern you see.

Check

You are always allowed to change your mind. If you think the patterns don't match, you can change the pattern of blocks on the tabletop. Keep checking the pattern on your lap until you are satisfied it is the same as the one you made on the table.

Compare

When you think you have a match, look at the pattern of blocks on your lap to compare with the pattern you made on the table. If they don't match, tell your helper what is different about your pattern and the one you were feeling.

Notes for helpers:

Some patterns are more difficult than others. If sides are staggered so the blocks don't touch along the entire side, this is harder because the spaces must be matched. Also, if blocks are separated so there is a space between them, this is even more difficult. It is more difficult again if one or more blocks are placed on top of another, rather than next to one another.

Begin with simple patterns and progress to more complex patterns. A hierarchy of patterns, from easy to difficult, is shown below.

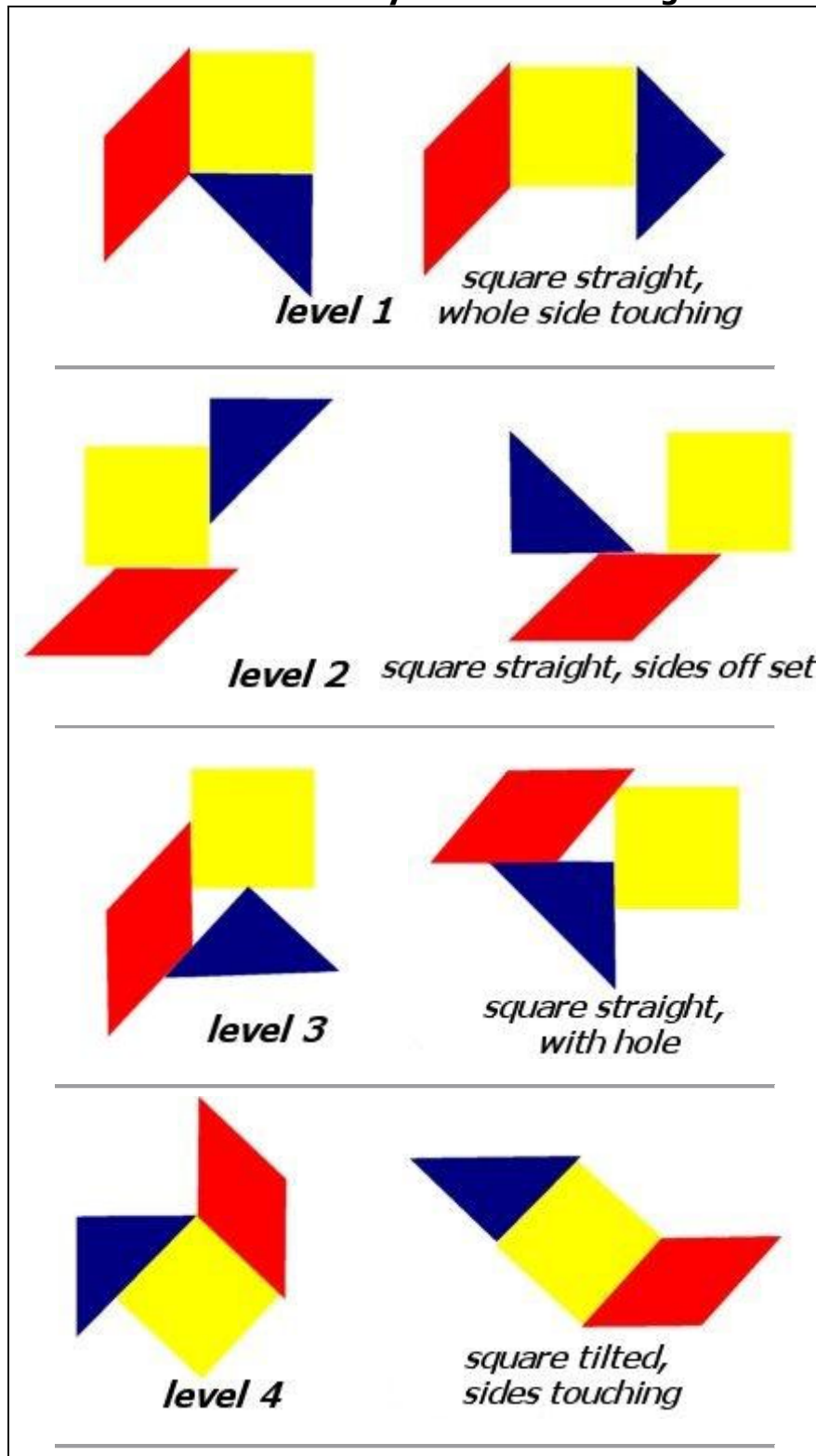
When talking about any differences between the pattern that was made and the one that was felt, the language does not need to be complicated, as long as it describes the difference.

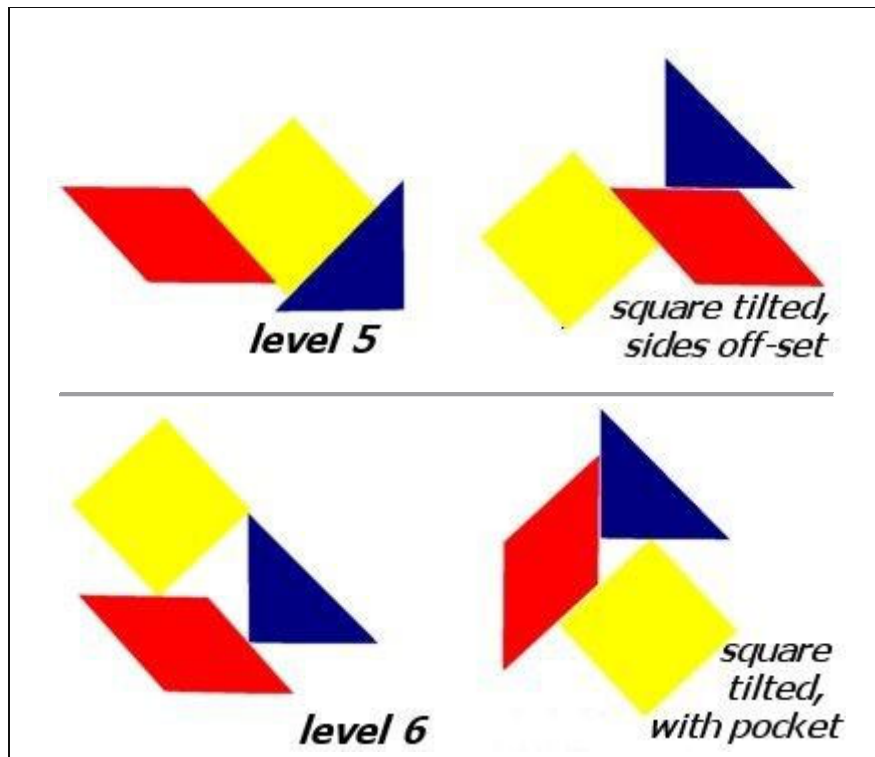
Step 2. Look at the blocks - match by feel

Your helper makes a pattern of blocks, using the square, triangle and diamond, on the tabletop in front of you. Now you match the pattern you see on the table on the folder on your lap, so you feel, but cannot see, the pattern you are making. Again you can take your time and feel all over the blocks.

When you are satisfied with the pattern you have made on the folder on your lap, and you think it matches the one on the table, look at the pattern on your lap and compare it to the original pattern on the tabletop. If the patterns are not exact, tell your helper how the patterns are different.

Wachs Hierarchy of Visual Thinking





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