

Matching Blocks

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

Now you make a pattern the same as your helper's using another set of blocks. You should make your pattern on a table, next to your helper's pattern, not on the plastic sheet. Try to put each of your blocks in exactly the same position as they are in your helper's pattern.

Check

When you have completed the block pattern, your helper picks up the plastic sheet with their block pattern on it and puts it over the top of your blocks to see if they match. They will ask you if the two patterns are the same. If they are not, you will be asked which block(s) need to be changed. Then your helper will move the plastic sheet away and ask you to change your blocks. Change any block(s) you have to, then your helper will put their pattern on top of yours again. Keep checking by overlaying the plastic sheet until the two patterns of blocks match exactly.

Match other patterns at the same level.

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

Proceed to the next level.

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.

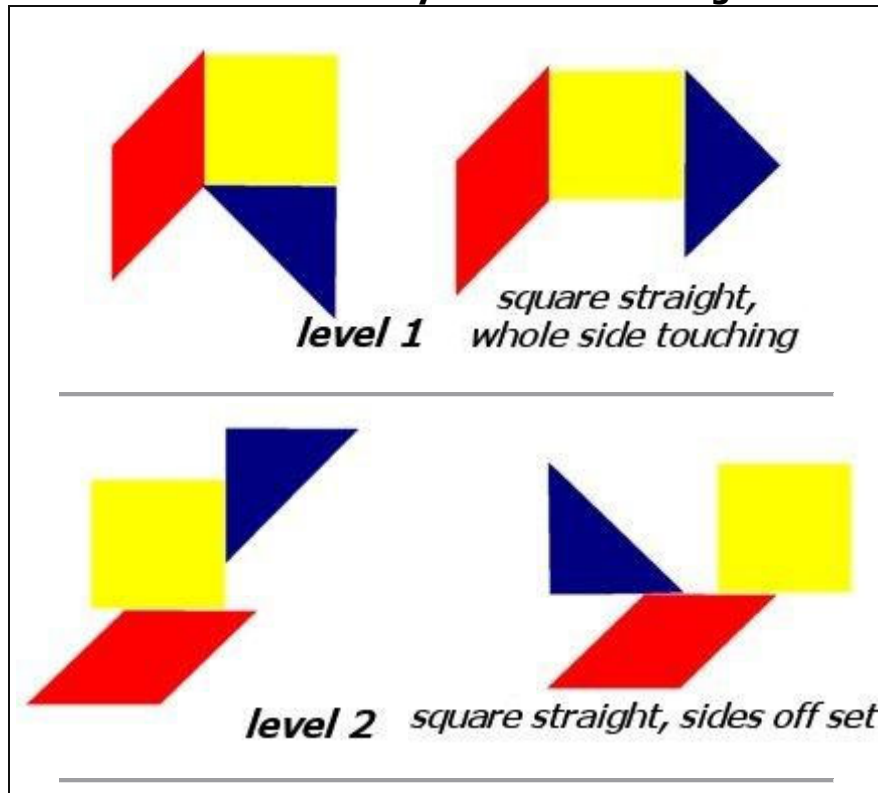
The two patterns must be **exactly** the same. The 2 block patterns must also **face the same way**, i.e. they must be in the same orientation - if their pattern has to be turned to match yours, it is not the same. In levels 2, 4, 6, where the sides are staggered, the portion of one block where it touches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

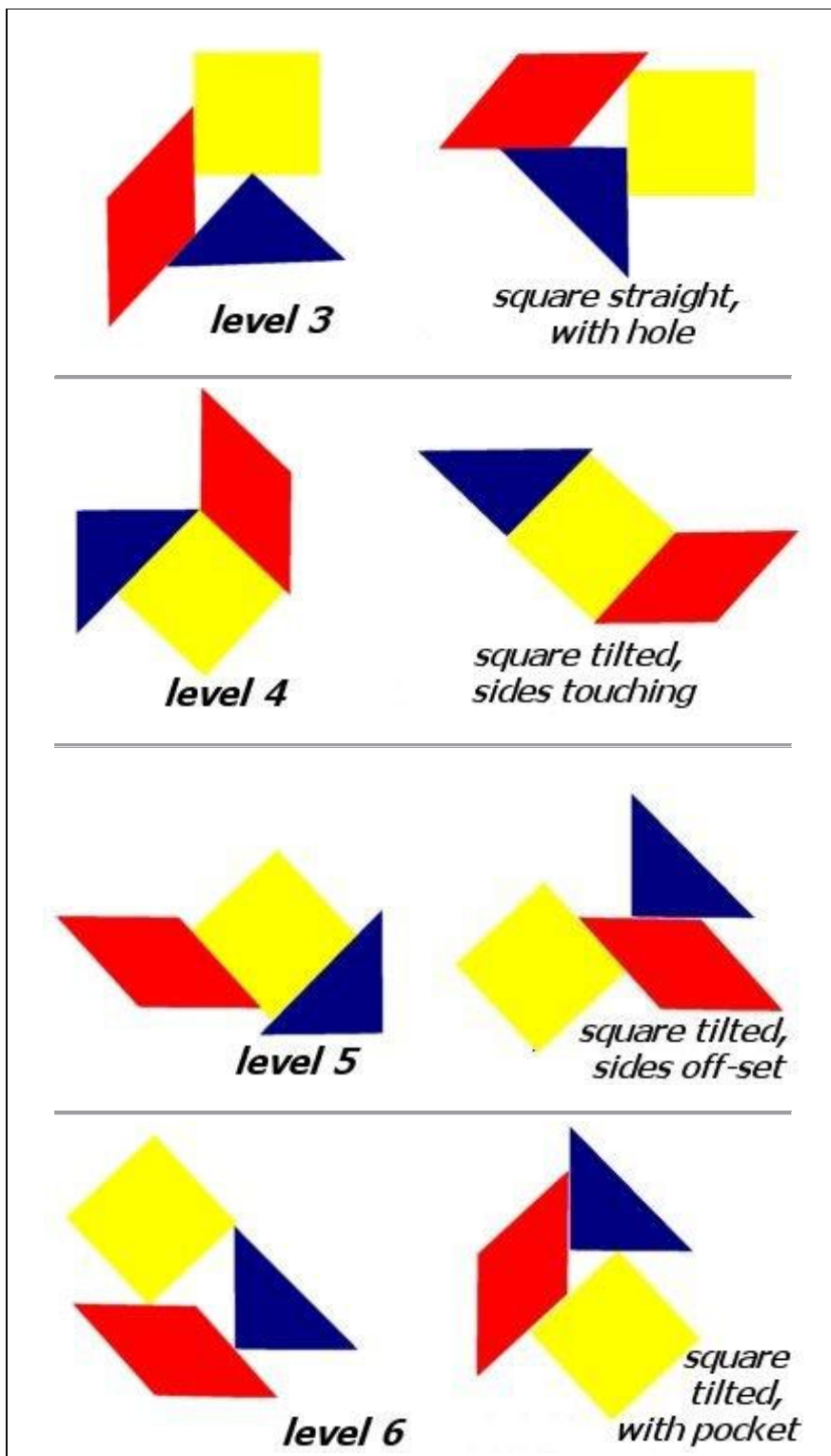
Match other patterns at the same level.

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