Advanced Level

Working Memory Challenges

A practical manual with shape activities for school-age students

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A Friendly Reminder

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Working Memory Activity

Introduction

Working memory activities that prompt a student to listen to an increasingly difficult suite of questions can have a positive effect in improving a student’s ability to attend to complex instructions. The activities in this series of workbooks prompt students to move shapes within the confines of a box to a pre-set range of questions. This manual is an advanced level series of activities.

You will need…

- A photocopied sheet of the individual shapes
- A photocopied sheet of the shapes box
- A pair of scissors
- A laminator (optional)

Instructions

Cut out and laminate the individual shapes or glue on to card. Present the shapes and the box to the student and hold on to the instruction sheet.

Read the directions to the student in a clear voice and at a slow rate. Make certain the student cannot see the correct answers while they are placing the shapes within the box. Some students, depending on their abilities, may require the questions to be repeated several times. After each activity, show the student how their efforts matched with the example boxes in the entry and novice levels. If a student has some difficulty with the advanced level activities, redo the advanced level and provide extra scaffolding for the student as needed before venturing on to the radical level. Score the student’s progress on the record form, which can be found in the appendix.
Working Memory Activity

**Instructions**

**Advanced Level**

**Activity 1**

**Directions**

1. Select a red circle, a blue circle, a blue star and a green star.
2. Place the circle that is not blue in the top right corner.
3. Place the green star opposite the red circle at the bottom of the box.
4. Place the blue star between the green star and the red circle.

**Activity 2**

**Directions**

1. Select a green star, a blue star, a red star and the square that is not blue or green.
2. Select the star that is not red or green and stand it at the bottom of the box in the middle.
3. Place the red star in the top left corner and the green star in the bottom right corner.
4. Place the red square between the red star and the green star in the middle.
Working Memory Activity

Instructions

Advanced Level

Activity 3

Directions

1. Select a red circle, a green circle, a blue triangle and a green triangle.
2. Stand the circle that is not green in the bottom left corner of the box.
3. Place the green triangle opposite the red circle in the bottom of the box.
4. Place the green circle above the green triangle in the top right corner of the box.
5. Place the blue triangle in the top right corner.

Instructions

Advanced Level

Activity 4

Directions

1. Select a green triangle, a red triangle, a blue triangle and a red circle.
2. Place the triangle that is not blue or red at the top of the box in the middle.
3. Place the triangle that is not blue at the bottom of the box in the middle.
4. Place the blue triangle between the other two triangles in the middle.
5. Place the red circle in the bottom right corner of the box.
**Working Memory Activity**

**Instructions**  
**Advanced Level**

**Activity 5**

**Directions**

1. Select a green star, a blue star, a blue square and a red circle
2. Place the star that is not blue at the top of the box in the middle.
3. Place the red circle in the bottom left corner of the box.
4. Place the blue square in the bottom right corner of the box.
5. Place the blue star directly beneath the green star in the middle of the box.

**Activity 6**

**Directions**

1. Select a red square, a blue square, a green triangle and the circle that is not red or blue.
2. Place the blue square in the middle of the box on the bottom and the red square to the left of it.
3. Place the green circle at the top of the box in the middle.
4. Place the triangle *between* the squares at the bottom and the circle at the top.
Working Memory Activity

Instructions

Activity 7

Directions

1. Select a red star, a green star, a blue star and a green triangle.
2. Place the star that is neither green nor blue in the bottom left corner of the box.
3. Place the star that is not green on the bottom of the box in the middle.
4. Place the green triangle in the top left corner of the box.
5. Place the green star between the blue star and the red star.

Instructions

Activity 8

Directions

1. Select a green circle, a red circle, a blue circle, and a green square.
2. Select the circle that is neither blue nor red and place it in the bottom left corner of the box.
3. Place the circle that is not blue nor green in the top right corner of the box.
4. Place the green square directly beneath the circle that is neither red nor green.
Instructions

Activity 9

Directions

1. Select a blue square, a red square, a green square and a red circle.
2. Place the square that is neither green nor red in the centre of the box in the middle.
3. Place the red circle directly beneath the blue square on the bottom of the box.
4. Place the square that is neither green nor blue in the bottom right corner of the box.
5. Place the green square in the bottom left corner of the box.

Instructions

Activity 10

Directions

1. Select a red circle, a red triangle, a green triangle, and a blue triangle.
2. Place the triangle that is neither blue nor green in the middle of the box on the bottom.
3. Place the red circle directly above the red triangle in the middle of the box.
4. Place the triangle that is not blue on the left side of the red triangle.
5. Place the blue triangle on the right side of the red triangle.
Working Memory Activity

Instructions

Radical Level

Activity 1

Directions

1. Select a red star, a blue star, a green triangle, a red triangle and a blue triangle.
2. Before you place the red triangle in the bottom right corner of the box, place the blue triangle in the bottom left corner,
3. Place the blue star in the top left corner and the red star in the top right corner.
4. Place the green triangle in the centre of the box on the bottom.

Instructions

Radical Level

Activity 2

Directions

1. Select a blue square, a red square, a green square, a red circle, and a green circle.
2. After you place the green circle in the bottom left corner, place the red circle in the top right corner of the box.
3. After you place the blue square in the top left corner, place the green square in the bottom right corner of the box and the red box on the bottom of the box in the middle.
Working Memory Activity

Instructions

Radical Level

Activity 3

Directions

1. Select a green circle, a red circle, a blue circle, a red triangle, and a blue triangle.
2. Place the blue circle in the middle of the box.
3. Before you place the red triangle to the right of the blue circle, place the blue triangle to the left of the blue circle.
4. Place the green circle directly beneath the blue circle, and the red circle above the blue circle.

Instructions

Radical Level

Activity 4

Directions

1. Select a blue star, a red star, a green star, a blue square and a red square.
2. Place the red square in the top left corner and the blue square in the bottom right corner.
3. Before you place the green star on the bottom of the box in the middle, place the blue star on top of the box in the middle.
4. Place the red star in the middle of the box, between the blue star and the green star.
Instructions

Radical Level

Activity 5

Directions

1. Select a blue circle, a red circle, a green circle, a blue square and a red square.
2. Place the blue square at the bottom of the box in the middle and the red square opposite the blue square.
3. Place the green circle between the squares.
4. After you place the blue circle in the bottom left corner, place the red circle in the top right corner of the box.

Activity 6

Directions

1. Select a blue square, a red square, a green square, a red triangle and a blue triangle.
2. Place the red triangle in the centre of the box and the blue triangle directly above it.
3. Place the red square in the bottom right corner and the blue square in the top left corner.
4. Place the green square on the bottom of the box directly beneath the red triangle.
Working Memory Activity

Instructions

Radical Level

Activity 7

Directions
1. Select a blue star, a green star, a blue square, a green square and a blue circle.
2. Place the blue square in the top left corner and the green square in the bottom right corner.
3. Place the blue star beneath the blue square and the green star above the green square.
4. Place the blue circle between the two stars and the two squares in the middle of the box.

Instructions

Radical Level

Activity 8

Directions
1. Select a red star, a green star, a red square, a red circle and a green square.
2. Place the red star in the bottom left corner and the green star in the bottom right corner.
3. Place the red square on the bottom in the middle and the green square opposite it.
4. Place the red circle between the red square and the green square.
Working Memory Activity

Instructions  
**Radical Level**

**Activity 9**

1. Select a green circle, a blue circle, a red circle, a blue star, and a green star.
2. Place the green circle half way up the left wall and the red circle opposite it on the right wall.
3. Place the blue circle between the green circle and the red circle.
4. Place the blue star beneath the green circle and the green star above the blue circle.

**Directions**

1. Select a red triangle, a green triangle, a blue triangle, a red circle and a blue square.
2. Before you place the blue triangle in the bottom left corner, place the red triangle in the top right corner.
3. Place the blue square above and opposite the blue triangle and the green triangle in the middle of the box.
4. Place the red circle opposite the red triangle on the bottom of the box.
Appendix
Working Memory Record Sheet

Tick in box, √ for correct, or ✗ for incorrect.

**Advanced Level**

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Working Memory Shapes

Cut out the shapes before beginning any of the activities. It's recommended that the individual shapes be laminated for extra durability. It is also helpful to glue a small piece of cardboard beneath each shape to make them easier to grasp and move.