Entry 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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Introduction

Working memory activities, which prompt a student to listen to an increasingly difficult suite of questions, can have a positive effect in improving a child’s ability to attend to complex oral language. The activities in this series of workbooks prompt children to move shapes within the confines of a box to a pre-set range of oral questions. This manual is *entry* level.

**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 child and hold on to the instruction sheet.

Read the **directions** to the child in a clear voice and at a slow rate. Make certain the child cannot see the correct answers while they are placing the shapes within the box. Some children, depending on their abilities, may require the questions to be repeated. After each activity, show the child how their efforts matched with the example boxes in the entry and novice levels. If a child has some difficulty with the *entry* level activities, redo the *entry* level and provide extra scaffolding for the child as needed before venturing on to the *novice* level.

Score the child’s progress on the record form, which can be found in the **appendix**.
Instructions

Activity 1

Directions

1. Select a rectangle and a circle
2. Place the circle in the middle of the floor of the box.
3. Place the rectangle on its side on top of the circle.

Instructions

Activity 2

Directions

1. Select a triangle and a circle
2. Place the triangle in the middle of the box at the top.
3. Place the circle in the bottom left corner of the box.
**Working Memory Activity**

**Instructions Entry level**

**Activity 3**

**Directions**

1. Select a rectangle and a circle.
2. Stand the rectangle up straight on its end in the bottom right corner of the box.
3. Place the circle next to the rectangle.

**Instructions Entry Level**

**Activity 4**

**Directions**

1. Select a triangle and a circle.
2. Place the triangle in the middle of the box.
3. Place the circle on the left side of the triangle.
Working Memory Activity

Instructions

Activity 5

Directions

1. Select a square and an oval.
2. Place the square in the top right hand corner of the box.
3. Place the oval on its side in the bottom left hand corner of the box.

Instructions

Entry Level

Activity 6

Directions

1. Select a triangle and a square.
2. Place the square at the top of the box in the middle.
3. Place the circle at the bottom of the box under the square.
**Working Memory Activity**

**Entry Level**

**Activity 7**

**Directions**

1. Select a square and a triangle.
2. Place the square in the bottom left corner of the box.
3. Place the triangle above the square in the top right corner of the box.

**Activity 8**

**Directions**

1. Select a rectangle and a circle.
2. Place the rectangle on its side in the bottom right corner of the box.
3. Place the circle in the bottom left corner of the box.
Working Memory Activity

**Entry level**

**Activity 9**

**Directions**

1. Select an oval and a triangle.
2. Place the triangle in the middle of the box.
3. Place the oval on its side on the bottom of the box, directly beneath the triangle.

**Instructions**

**Entry Level**

**Activity 10**

**Directions**

1. Select a circle and a square.
2. Place the circle in the middle on the box, on the bottom.
3. Place the square next to the circle on the circle's right side.
Working Memory Activity

Instructions

**Activity 1**

1. Select a triangle, a square and a rectangle.
2. Place the triangle in the centre of the box.
3. Place the square in the top right hand corner of the box.
4. Place the rectangle on its side in the bottom left hand corner.

Directions

**Activity 2**

1. Select a circle and two squares.
2. Place the circle at the bottom of the box in the middle.
3. Place a square to the right of the circle.
4. Place the other square in the top right corner of the box.

Instructions

**Novice Level**
Working Memory Activity

Instructions

**Novice level**

**Activity 3**

- Select a circle and two triangles
- Place the circle in the centre of the box.
- Place one triangle in the top right corner of the box.
- Place the other triangle in the top left corner of the box.

**Directions**

1. Select a circle, a rectangle and an oval.
2. Place the circle in the middle of the box, on the bottom.
3. Place the oval on its side in the middle of the box, nearly touching the left side wall.
4. Place the rectangle on its side in the middle of the box, opposite the oval.
Working Memory Activity

Instructions

Activity 5

Directions

1. Select a circle, a triangle, and a square.
2. Place the triangle in the top right corner of the box.
3. Place the square directly beneath the triangle.
4. Place the circle to the left of the square.

Novice Level

Instructions

Activity 6

Directions

1. Select a triangle and two rectangles.
2. Place the triangle in the middle of the box in the centre.
3. Place a rectangle on its side in the top left corner of the box.
4. Place the other rectangle on its side in the opposite corner to the first rectangle.
**Working Memory Activity**

**Instructions**  
**Novice level**

**Activity 7**

**Directions**

1. Select two circles and a triangle.
2. Place the triangle in the middle of the box on the bottom.
3. Place one circle half way up the box nearly touching the left wall.
4. Place the other circle directly opposite the first circle.

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**Instructions**  
**Novice Level**

**Activity 8**

**Directions**

1. Select a rectangle, a triangle and an oval.
2. Place the rectangle on its side at the top of the box in the centre.
3. Place the oval on its side in the middle of the box.
4. Place the triangle at the bottom of the box, beneath the oval.
**Working Memory Activity**

**Instructions**  
*Novice level*

**Activity 9**

**Directions**

1. Select two triangles and a rectangle.
2. Place the rectangle on its side in the centre of the box.
3. Place one triangle so that the point touches the bottom left corner of the triangle.
4. Place the other triangle so that the point touches the bottom right corner of the rectangle.

**Instructions**  
*Novice Level*

**Activity 10**

**Directions**

1. Select two ovals and a circle.
2. Place one oval on its side in the bottom left corner of the box.
3. Place one oval on its side in the top right corner of the box.
4. Place the circle between the two ovals.
Appendix
**Working Memory Record Sheet**

Tick ✓ for correct and ✗ for incorrect.

**Entry Level**

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<th>Activity 1</th>
<th>Activity 6</th>
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**Novice 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.
Working Memory Shapes Box