

Communications Activity

For this activity you will need to make the following using poster board or construction paper of various colors:

2 Lap boards by cutting white poster board into two 14" squares.

2 sets of the following *shapes and colors from poster board or construction paper:

- ✓ 4 inch yellow square
- ✓ 2 inch yellow square
- ✓ 1 inch by 2 inch red rectangle
- ✓ 3 inch green circle
- ✓ 2 inch green circle
- ✓ blue triangle with a 4 inch base
- ✓ parallelogram (shape of Tennessee) in blue
- ✓ 1 inch black square
- ✓ 1 inch by 2 inch black rectangle

(*Shapes and colors are suggestions. You may vary those as you wish. Just make sure that each set has the same number, shape, size and colors of pieces with it.)

Instructions:

Seat two persons back-to-back for this activity. Give each participant a lap board and a set of colored shapes. One participant will give directions, and the other will try to follow the directions. The one giving directions will begin to lay the colored shapes on the lap board to make a design or picture. While making the design, he or she should give directions to the other participant on how to make the same design. The follower is not allowed to ask questions or look at the other's work. The one giving directions is not to ask questions or look at the follower's work. When both pictures or designs are completed, allow both participants to look at each other's work. How close did they come to making two identical pictures? Be sure that other class members do not give help or hints to either participant while they work on their pictures. Allow everyone to discuss what could have been done to make the activity easier. The goal of this activity is to show the importance of giving clear directions and listening closely.

Clarify and Simplify Worksheet

For each of the statements listed below, restate them in a more clear or simple manner. The first statement is done as an example.

To a 3-year-old – Clean your room before we eat lunch.

Pick up your toys and put them in the toy box now.

To a 15-year-old – Your job this weekend is to do the lawn.

To a 10-year-old – Get the dishes ready to be washed.

To an 8-year-old – You may play outside for a little while before you do your homework.

To a 4-year-old – It's time to get ready for bed.

To a 5-year-old – Only put as much food as you can eat on your plate.

To a 4-year-old – Behave yourself in the grocery store.

To a 6-year-old – Be polite to your Aunt Debbie.

To a 12-year-old – You may watch one TV show before you do your homework.

Clarify and Simplify Worksheet

For each of the statements listed below, restate them in a more clear or simple manner. The first statement was done as an example.

To a 3-year-old – Clean your room before we eat lunch.

Pick up your toys and put them in the toy box now.

To a 15-year-old – Your job this weekend is to do the lawn.

I want you to mow and rake the yard and trim the edges before you go to the movies Saturday.

To a 10-year-old – Get the dishes ready to be washed.

Take the dishes from the table, scrape them, and stack them.

To an 8-year-old – You may play outside for a little while before you do your homework.

You may play outside until 4 p.m. Then you must do your homework. I will let you know when it is five minutes before 4.

To a 4-year-old – It's time to get ready for bed.

Go brush your teeth and put on your pajamas.

To a 5-year-old – Only put as much food as you can eat on your plate.

Get only one spoonful of each food. If you want more, you may have it when you have cleaned your plate.

To a 4-year-old – Behave yourself in the grocery store.

When we go to the store, you must hold my hand and not get things from the shelf unless I ask.

To a 6-year-old – Be polite to your Aunt Debbie.

When you ask Aunt Debbie for something, say please, and always say thank you when she gets it for you.

To a 12-year-old – You may watch one TV show before you do your homework.

You may watch one 30-minute show (you may want to say which show) before you do your homework.