

**Program:** Sentence Builder

**Step one:** Develop spontaneous communication

**Criteria for Mastery:** 80% correct attempts over ten consecutive days

**Learning Outcome:** Independently and spontaneously expresses verbal/nonverbal comment regarding shape, color, and size

Rationale: Develop the ability to observe and relate observations; a pre-requisite for spontaneous conversation

**Directions:** *(There is no need to know the color words or the shape words.) Use the shape pages to establish pointing and/or verbal target response of the words: “same, different, color, shape, size”. For example non-verbal children will point to the icons for either “same” or “different” AND point to the icon for “shape” to relate their observation. Once mastered continue to observe similarities and differences in shape AND color; then shape, color, and size. Allow ample time for the learner to process and respond.*

**Avoid verbal prompting** *(physical prompt if necessary by directing hand/finger to touch or point to the image)*

**Avoid questions;** *questions, like verbal prompting, teach the learner to wait until told to speak or gesture.*

**Reinforce spontaneous observation and/or relating ALWAYS** *with behavior specific praise and a desirable reward (a morsel of favorite snack, token economy, etc); fade out the snack after spontaneous commenting is a natural response to observation.*

**How to score data:**

Record a plus sign for every spontaneous point to or comment on the image during the session; record a minus sign when physical prompting is required. Example: - - + + - This means that the learner did not spontaneously point to or relate observations for the first two attempts, the spontaneously related the next two attempts, then did not spontaneously relate the last attempt. This example scored two out of five attempts for a score of 40% (2 divided by 4). In order to move beyond this phase, the learner should demonstrate mastery of this skill.

date										
score										

**Facilitator Notes:**