

1

Circles here, squares there

Spread six shapes beside two hoops, three circles and three squares, and name where each group goes before the student starts. The sorting rule is given at this stage, not chosen.

"Put all the circles in this hoop. Put all the squares in that hoop."

If the student stalls, sort the first two together, naming the feature aloud each time, then hand the rest back.

2

Round or straight

With the sort finished, point at one hoop at a time and ask about that hoop only. Naming the feature of a group is easier than stating a rule for the whole sort, so start here.

"Look at this hoop. Are these ones round or straight?"

Say the rule yourself while touching each shape in one hoop, then ask the student to say it back for the other hoop.

3

Now sort them by size

Gather the same six shapes back into one pile and name the new feature. Sorting the same collection a second way is the thing being practised, so use the shapes they have just used.

"We sorted by colour. Now sort them by size. Big ones here, small ones there."

If the student rebuilds the first sort, hold up two shapes of the same colour and different size, ask which hoop each one goes in, then hand the rest back.

This activity should be done with a set of concrete shapes like these.















