

1

Make a picture

Put out a tray of solids, sticks, string and playdough with a blank sheet. The picture has to use at least three traced shapes along with the other materials.

"Make a picture. Trace around the solid shapes and use the other materials as well."

"How many shapes have you traced so far?"

If a student cannot start, name one thing to make, such as a truck, and put out only the solids that thing needs.

2

Tell me every shape

Ask for all the shapes in the picture at once rather than pointing at them one at a time. Hand the solids over one by one only if nothing comes.

"Tell me every shape you used."

3

Say why you chose each one

Ask for a reason for at least three shapes, tied to what the shape does in the picture rather than to what was left on the tray.

"Say why you chose each shape."

"What would go wrong if you had used a different shape there?"

4

Picture card challenges

Pairs draw a picture card and build what it names from the tray. The group checks that every shape choice can be explained before the next card is drawn.

"Build what your card says."

"Tell us why each shape is where it is."

Picture cards

a truck

a house

a robot

a rocket

a face

a boat

a train

a flower

a bridge

a fish

a tree

a crane