

Divide the class into pairs and give each student two identical sets of 6 **plastic pattern blocks**. One partner creates a design with the pattern blocks; the other student should not see what their partner has created. (They can stand a book up on end to block the partner's view or sit back to back).

After creating the designs, the pattern creator will describe their design to their partner. They will use phrases such as *on top of*, *to the right of*, *underneath*, and *next to* to describe the locations of each shape as clearly as they can. The listener will recreate the partner's design using the verbal description. Once done, the partner's will compare designs to see how well they have been copied. Then the roles reverse, and the activity is repeated.

If students do not know the names of all the shapes, they might describe the shape based on its color and number of sides (e.g., a rhombus would be a blue four-sided shape and a hexagon would be a yellow six-sided shape).

Give each partner a chance to recreate at least one of their partner's designs.

MATERIALS:

-Plastic Pattern Blocks