

LOGIC / THINKING

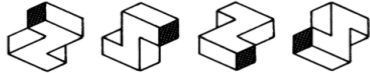
(see also our (Not) Just For Fun Section!)

THINKING SKILLS - PROGRAMS

BUILDING THINKING SKILLS (PK-12)

This is a very complete thinking skills program, covering all of the figural and verbal skills your children are likely to see on a standardized test. The publisher, Critical Thinking Press, states that *Building Thinking Skills* is "designed to significantly improve verbal and figural skills in four important areas: similarities and differences, sequences, classifications, and analogies. Proficiency in these skills is the cornerstone of success in all academic areas, on standardized tests, and on college entrance exams." They have *scads* of testimonials documenting the correlation between use of this series and increased test scores. We have no doubt that all the practice you get in using this series would, indeed, improve test scores. More importantly, many of the specific skills practiced here also have application in different professions. Other skills would seem to generally improve your ability to "see things" in different ways or train your mind to stretch in different directions.

The broader goals of this series are translated into specific skills and exercises within these areas. Learning is spiral within skills, within books, and between levels. That is, exercises progress in sophistication and scope within each book, and from level to level. This translates into several *hefty* worktexts full of practice exercises that children actually enjoy doing! Except for the *Primary* level, students can work pretty much on their own, proceeding as quickly through the series as they're able. If you're starting an older child in the series, however, use the suggested grade levels for proper placement. Teacher's manuals contain lesson plans and *solutions*. If you want to be able to correct exercises quickly, or feel some exercises need explanation, you'll want these.



Building Thinking Skills Beginning (PK)

A brand new starting point for the *Building Thinking Skills* series, the *Beginning* course is intended for children ages 3 and 4. Pages are brightly colored and uncluttered, with exercises that look fun for kids this age to do. Basic skills covered include colors, similarities and differences, geometric shapes, inference, measurement, problem solving, and analogies. At a deeper level, two pages at the beginning show which exercises relate to physiological development and cognitive skills such as visual tracking, auditory processing, and fine motor skills development, among others. If you were to find an area that needs attention, you could focus on the exercises on these page numbers. No manipulatives are required with this book; however, some of the exercises show geometric shapes that look like attribute blocks. It would be easier and more fun for the student to have these available during the lesson, and if you go on to *Building Thinking Skills Primary*, you will need them anyway. sc., 218 pgs.

014217 32.99

Can You Find Me? (PK-K) (Limited Quantity)

Think of this as *Building Thinking Skills Lite*. Intended to develop readiness skills in reading, math, science and social studies, students learn to identify same and different, make and follow a pattern, classify objects, and make and identify analogies.

024180 PK Book 17.99
024179 K Book 17.99

Building Thinking Skills Primary (K-1)

This level has been rewritten in 2008. Activities begin using concrete materials, so you will need to use attribute blocks and interlocking cubes (mathlink or multilink); please see our Math section if you need information on these. About half the book uses these manipulatives to help the child understand the concepts of same and different, classifying, sorting and grouping. Once the child has mastered skills with these tangible objects, pages progress to pictorial representations real-life people and things – family members, foods, animals, occupations, vehicles, and buildings. These are shown by full-color photographs. Also at this point, printing (ball and stick method) becomes a part of the course; as you can do these exercises orally, it is optional whether or not the student prints the answers. The final chapter covers analogies, the acid test as to whether the child understands the classifying and grouping of previous chapters. Activities are designed for one-on-one instruction, and answers will likely be apparent to the instructor.

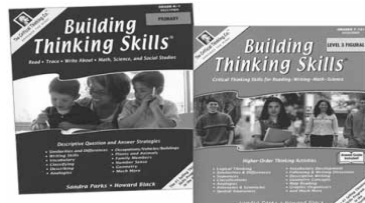
The teacher edition for this book offers enhancement for lessons and guidance for the teacher. The book gives explanation of the content, suggests different types of instructional methods, and offers ideas for follow-up activities. A guide for using the lesson plans explains the components of each lesson. Lessons are scripted and list materials needed, page correlation to the student book, objectives, and answers.

Generally at this level the teacher's manual is not necessary, but it certainly will make teaching the program easier and more organized. s/c.

014194 Student 32.99
014215 Teacher 24.99
007935 Attribute Blocks 19.99 13.95
018741 Multilink Cubes 12.65 10.50

Pattern Blocks: (Choose from below)

018743 Set of 100 plastic .. 8.50 6.75
018744 Set of 250 plastic .. 19.49 14.25
015445 Set of 250 wood .. 34.75 18.50
015343 Wooden - Bagged .. 23.95 16.95



Building Thinking Skills Book 1 (2-3)

Use after completion of *Primary* book or as soon as children can read (or you can read directions to them). Strictly pencil and paper activities here with practice in such things as identifying figural and verbal similarities and differences, sequencing, classifying, developing analogies, following directions and logical connectives (AND, OR). Answers included. 363 pgs. Revised in 2006.

A software version is also available, which features the same activities in an interactive format. There are 10 levels of activities in the software, and players can choose from "mission" mode where they complete activities in order or "practice" mode for review. Approximately 40 activities are included in the software, with over 800 questions in all. Instructions are both spoken and written. System requirements: Windows 98/NT/Me/2000/XP/Vista or Mac OS X (10.3+), PowerPC. 128 MB RAM for either.

003347 Worktext and Key 29.99
018036 CD 36.99

Building Thinking Skills Book 2 (4-6)

May be used earlier if student has completed Book 1. All skills learned in Book 1 are reviewed and exercises become increasingly complex with more specific skills. Examples of skills practiced are classification, following directions, deductive reasoning, parts of a whole, Word Benders, Venn and branching diagrams, pattern folding, rotation, reflection, overlapping classes and mental manipulation of two-dimensional objects. Answers included, 408 pgs. Revised in 2006.

The software version of the program features the same activities as the worktexts, but in an interactive format. There are 10 levels of activities which can be played in either "mission" or "practice" mode. Approximately 40 activities are included in the software, with over 800 questions in all. Instructions are both spoken and written. System requirements: Windows 98/NT/Me/2000/XP/Vista or Mac OS X (10.3+), PowerPC. 128 MB RAM for either.

000114 Worktext and Key 29.99
018040 Building Thinking Skills 2 CD 36.99

Building Thinking Skills Books 3 (7-12)

May be used earlier with students completing previous level. Activities are reviewed and have "branched" into additional skills and more sophistication, so much so that verbal and figural skills are now separated into different books. A very brief sampling of included skills: deductive reasoning, denotation and connotations, following and writing directions, time, degree of meaning, cause-and-effect words, flowcharting and scheduling, Venn and branching diagrams, congruence, area, volume, and rotation and reflection of two and three dimensional objects. Teacher's Manuals included. An optional CD version of the Verbal 3 Teacher Book in PDF format is also available.

001379 Verbal Teacher CD ... 19.99
007987 Figural Worktext & Teacher 29.99
013460 Verbal Worktext & Teacher 29.99

See page vi for key to Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act warning labels.

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