

Objective

Use language such as *before* or *after* to describe relative position in a sequence of events or objects.

Common Core State Standards

- **K.G.1** Describe objects in the environment using names of shapes, and describe the relative positions of these objects using terms such as *above*, *below*, *beside*, *in front of*, *behind*, and *next to*.

Geometry

Before and After

Relative position is one way to describe the location of an object or the place in time of an event by relating it to another. Words such as *next to*, *in back of*, *in front of*, etc. describe relative position. When sequencing objects or events in a line, the objects can be described in relation to others with words such as *before*, meaning in front of, and *after*, meaning behind.

Try It! Perform the Try It! activity on the next page.

Talk About It

Discuss the Try It! activity.

- Have children look at completed trays and compare to other children's trays.
- **Ask:** *Where did you put the dog? Where did you put the car? Where did you put the house?*
- **Say:** *Look at your tray. Look at another group's tray.*
- **Ask:** *Is the house in front of the car? Is the dog in back of the house?*

Solve It

With children, reread the problem. Then have the class form a line. Ask children to state the name of the person who is in line before them and name the person in line after them. Have them change their order several times and repeat the activity.

More Ideas

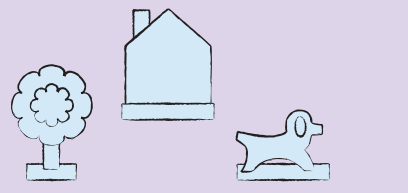
For other ways to teach about *before* and *after*—

- Have children practice *in back of* and *in front of* by lining up 3 different Frog Counters and pointing to each as they describe their location. Then have them line up the counters side-by-side and describe which counter is next to the one the child is pointing to.
- Have children make patterns of Color Tiles or Pattern Blocks. Ask children to describe the sequence of objects using *before* and *after*.

Formative Assessment

Have children complete the following activity.

Make a line with a tree, a house, and a dog. Put the tree before the house. Put the dog before the tree. Explain how you know that your line is correct.



Try It! 30 minutes | Pairs

Here is a problem about relative position.

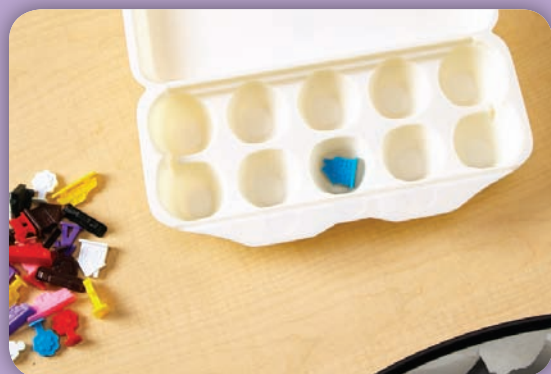
Grace wants to arrange her toys in a line. She wants her car to be before the house, and the dog to be after the house. How should Grace line up her toys?

Introduce the problem. Then have children do the activity to solve the problem.

Say: *Let's follow the steps below to show Grace how to line up her toys.* Distribute materials to children.

Materials

- CounTEN® Sorting Tray (1 per pair)
- Classifying Counters (1 house, 1 dog, and 1 car per pair)



1. To begin, ask children to put a house counter in a slot near the middle of the tray.



2. Have children place a car counter before the house. Explain to the children that *before* means "in front of."



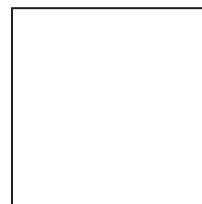
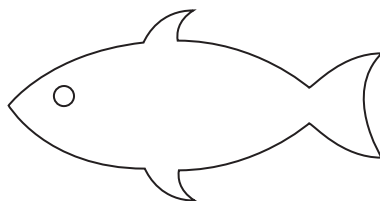
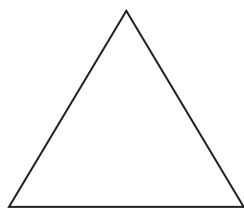
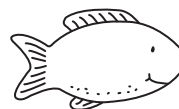
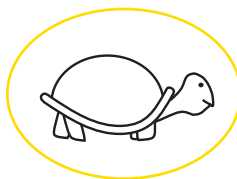
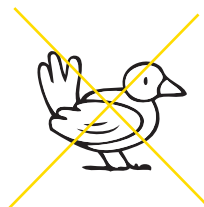
3. Now have the children place a dog counter in the slot after the house. Explain to the children that *after* means "behind."

! Look Out!

Watch for children who try to arrange the objects from side to side. Unless there is established prior knowledge of left to right directionality, there is no way of knowing whether or not children understand before and after.



Check children's work.

Answer Key**1.****2.****Directions**

1. Color the shape before the fish orange. Color the shape after the fish purple. **2.** Circle the animal after the bird. Draw an X on the animal before the turtle.



Answer Key

Check children's work.

Challenge

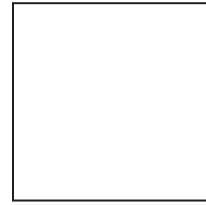
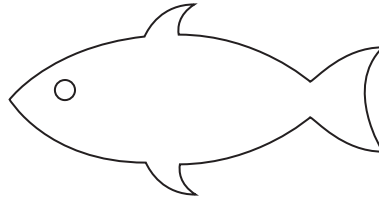
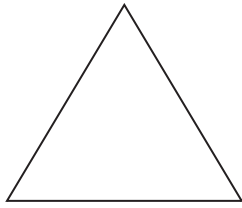
Use Classifying Counters. Make a line with a dog, a child, and a car. Put the child after the dog. Put the car before the dog. Draw your counters in the order you put them.

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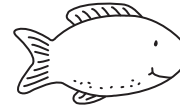


Name _____

1.



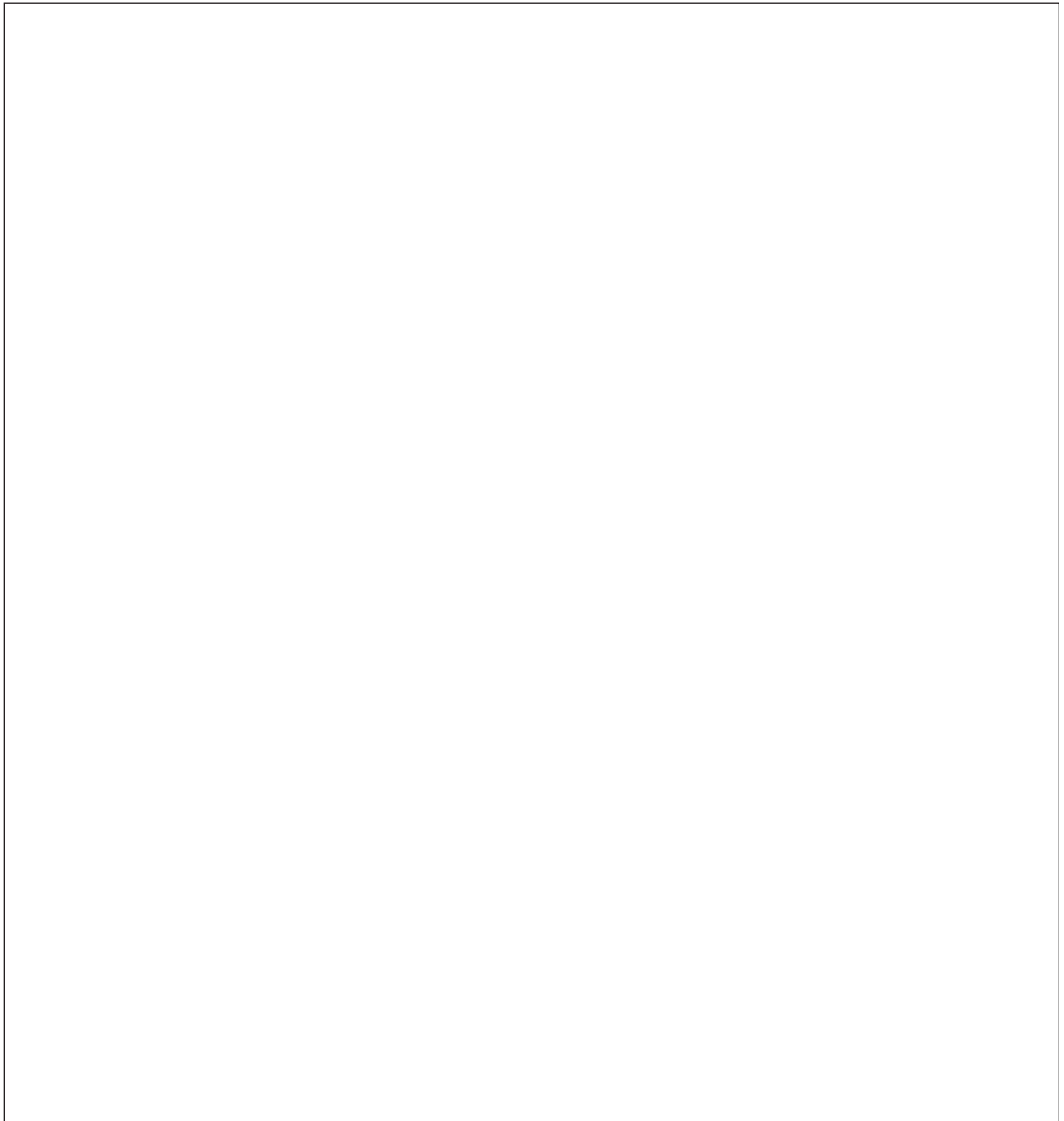
2.



Directions

1. Color the shape before the fish orange. Color the shape after the fish purple. **2.** Circle the animal after the bird. Draw an X on the animal before the turtle.

Name _____



Challenge

Use Classifying Counters. Make a line with a dog, a child, and a car. Put the child after the dog. Put the car before the dog. Draw your counters in the order you put them.

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