

## KNEX Activity

**Objective:** To practice precise descriptions and the communication of spatial information

**Materials:** One kit per two students. Kit includes two sets of KNEX pieces – one hidden in a paper bag and assembled – one that is loose pieces.

**Procedure:** One of the partners (the transmitter) removes the paper bag and hands the remaining pieces to the other partner (the receiver). The two partners sit back-to-back so that they cannot see each other. The transmitter (person with the paper bag) next removes the assembled KNEX module from the bag and describes how to build it. The receiver must follow the directions until both individuals believe they are holding identical modules. When this is accomplished then the partners should compare their modules and answer the following questions:

1. Are the two modules identical? If not, describe any differences.
2. Were the directions given by the transmitter clear? If not, describe an example of a confusing direction. If so, give an example of a clear direction.
3. Describe any difficulties with this activity.

Now switch roles. The transmitter will become the receiver and vice versa. The transmitter will first need to build a NEW arrangement of KNEX pieces. Repeat the process described above. Answer these additional questions:

1. Are the two modules identical? If not, describe any differences.
2. Was it easier to do this activity this time compared to the first time?
3. Please comment on any thoughts you both have about this activity and how well you were able to perform it with each other.