

# Matching to Sample Lessons for the At-Home Learner

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*What is Matching to Sample?* Matching to Sample is a teaching method in ABA that involves presenting a stimulus and teaching a student to match that presented stimulus (a) to another stimulus (b). For example, you could match the word “car” to a picture of a car. There are several skills that can be taught in this manner and they revolve around the idea of what we call stimulus equivalence. Let’s take a look:

*Types of Matching to Sample:*

1. Reflexivity (Identity Matching)- This is when a student learns to match a stimulus to itself (so think red card to red card- this is like the matching card game, you’re looking for the exact same thing); Mathematically, we might say that this looks like  $A=A$
2. Symmetry (Reversible Matching)- This is when a student learns to match one stimulus to another stimulus that might look different, but means the same thing (so think picture of a bird to the word “bird”); Mathematically, we might say that this looks like  $A=B$  and  $B=A$
3. Transitivity (Transfer Matching)- This is when a student learns that if they match one stimulus to a second stimulus, and that the second stimulus matches to a third stimulus, that then the first stimulus also matches to the last stimulus (so think red card = red card, red card= the written word red, the written word red = the spoken word “red”, so therefore the red card = the spoken word “red”); Mathematically, we might say that this looks like  $A=B$ ,  $B=C$ , so  $A=C$

*\*Remember: You can teach matching physical objects, pictures, pictures to written words, or matching to the spoken word with these strategies\**

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Here are some lessons you might teach with the above strategies:

1. Colors
2. Shapes
3. Letters
4. Numbers
5. Animals
6. Vehicles/Methods of Transportation
7. Family Titles (mom, dad, sister, brother, etc.)
8. Names
9. Environmental Objects (Tree, Flower, Sun, etc. – you can do all different types)