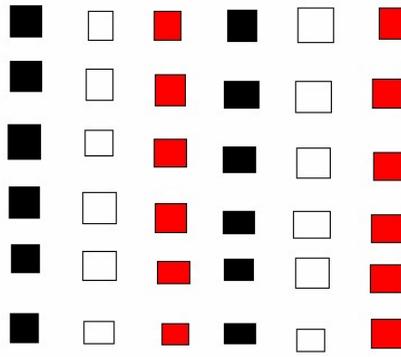


Crocodile Pass

This activity requires students to work together in order to find safe passage across a pattern of squares. It requires them to use a trial and error method. This is quite new to some of our students because they become immobile with the idea that they may make a mistake. This activity encourages them to learn from mistakes and to move on. It requires them to use their short term memory and make inferences to predict the pattern. It also encourages using observation as a learning method.

Materials: I used 3 colors of construction paper and cut them into fourths. I then laid them out flat on the floor with a piece of tape on the back. I put them in rows so they looked something like this. Carpet squares or mats may work even better.



I made index cards that represented patterns that a student would use to cross. For example a pattern may be (black, red, white, black, red, white) or (black, white, black white).

Procedure: A teacher draws an index card. They become the judge. Each student tries to cross the pattern by stepping to each shape. If it is not the correct color and sequence as the index card they are bleeped and another student is given a chance. Students will do best if they watch the performance of the students before them and get input from team mates. The object is to make it to the opposite side without getting bleeped and ate by the crocodile. Once a student has made it, I let everyone cross. This reinforces the team effort and understanding of the pattern used.