Assessment: Rectangles

PROBLEM 1

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Benchmark addressed:

Benchmark 1. Identify defining attributes of 2-D and 3-D shapes (number and shape of faces, number of length of sides, number of angles and/or vertices) and draw shapes with those attributes

Because students are also explaining their thinking about why a shape is/is not a rectangle, this question also provides information about student's progress with MP3:

In order to meet the benchmark, students' work should show that they can:

- Correctly identify which shapes are rectangles and which are not;
- Explain that rectangles are shapes with four sides and four right angles.



Meeting the Benchmark

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Students in this category correctly identify which shapes are and are not rectangles. Their explanations also refer to the fact that rectangles have four sides and four right angles. Many of these students also use this information about what a rectangle *is* to *explain* why a shape is *not* a rectangle.



[Henry's Work]



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Some students, like Tia identify which shapes are and are not rectangles, using right angles to explain her answer.



[Tia's Work]

[Lonzell's Work]

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Partially Meeting the Benchmark

While Rochelle correctly identifies the shapes and gives explanations that are accurate, she says that a rectangle has four corners without specifying the size or type of those corners. Many second graders use the word *corner* to describe angles. Ask students who respond like Rochelle to explain what they mean. Listen for evidence that they are distinguishing between the types of corners in the third shape and the first shape.

a.	No. Because Rectangles are straight on every side Two of it's sides are slanted.
b.	No, Because (ectangles have four straight sides!
c.	Yes, Because fectangles have two bry sides and a short sides. It has straight sides and four Corners.
d.	No Because Rectangle have 4 Straight sides This has a slanted side!

[Rochelle's Work]

Not Meeting the Benchmark

Students in this group do not have a coherent understanding of what a rectangle is. For example, Luis correctly rules out shapes 2 and 4 based on the number and length of the sides, but incorrectly identifies the first shape as a rectangle. While he has noticed something important about shapes that are rectangles (the opposite sides are equal), he appears to think that any shape with opposite sides that are equal are rectangles. The size or shape of the angles does not factor into his explanations. In addition, his writing about the rectangle suggests that he is basing his response on an overall visual image—or what the shape looks like. While this student has, and can articulate, some important beginning ideas about rectangles, he does not mention the defining attribute of right angles.



[Luis's Work]

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Many students who do not meet the benchmark base their responses on what the shapes look like, attending to one or two features of the shapes that resemble rectangles.



[Nate's Work]

Other students offer little or no explanation.

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Students who do not meet the benchmark need continued experience working with rectangles and other shapes. The focus of this work should be on attending to features of shapes specifically the number of sides and what the angles look like. Describing shapes in terms of how they are the same and different can help highlight what makes a rectangle a rectangle, distinguished from other polygons.

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