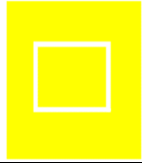
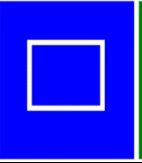
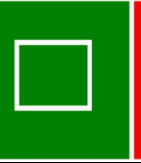






# Trainer Tip: How to Keep Peace When Separating Friends




**Issue** Trainers typically use techniques such as assigned seating, distance, etc. to keep friendly and acquainted students focused on the course.  
This usually works unless there are absences or the need for spontaneous regrouping.

**Solution** I created some grouping squares that can split a group multiple ways using:

<b>Color</b>					
<b>Shape</b>					
<b>Numbers</b>	1	2	3		

A square is placed with each student's materials for use throughout the day, course, etc. I've used them in many different ways in the classroom as well as for meeting facilitation both here in the US and in Germany. They even worked for first graders, although I added a piece of yarn so they could wear it.

**Results** I created a job aid for myself to quickly "regroup" when circumstances required it or for less convenient numbers. The job aid shows how to split up a group two ways:

Number in a group	Number of groups
<b>Groups of...</b> <b>2</b> Numbers Shapes THEN 1 to 3 / 4 to 6 Shapes THEN Cool colors / Warm colors Shapes THEN Odd / Even Red & Blue / Green & Yellow THEN Shape <b>3</b> Colors Shapes THEN Put blues together Odd / Even THEN Cool colors / Warm colors 1 to 3 / 4 to 6 THEN all three numbers per group	<b>Number of Groups</b> <b>2</b> Odd / Even Cool colors / Warm colors  /  THEN split  1 to 3 / 4 to 6 <b>3</b> One of each shape per group 1 to 2 / 3 to 4 / 5 to 6 One of each color per group <b>4</b> Colors Shapes THEN Put blues together Odd / Even THEN Cool colors / Warm colors 1 to 3 / 4 to 6 THEN all three numbers per group