

PLAYING BOARD GAMES IS...

EDUCATIONAL CREATIVE MOTIVATING IMAGINATIVE

AND MOST OF ALL—FUN!

BOARD GAMES ENCOURAGE...

Social Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Conversation → Turn Taking → Cooperation → Following Rules
Talking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → New Words → Conversation → Storytelling → Naming & Labelling
Emotional Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Self-Expression → Coping With Frustration → Talking About Feelings → Encouraging Others → Positive Attitude
Problem Solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Decision Making → Strategic Thinking → Matching & Patterning → Counting → Recognizing Symbols



FAMILY BOARD GAME FUN WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Tips for making board games part of your family fun!

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QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING A GAME FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Are there the elements of choice and chance?

This ensures that adults and older children are not always the winner, giving little ones a fairer chance!

Can it be played quickly?

About 15 minutes is best for young children around 3 to 5 years. 10 minutes may be more appropriate for toddlers. The playing time is usually stated on the box.

Does it have interesting illustrations and pieces?

Choose a game with a theme that interests young children and is more general (e.g., tea parties, penguins). If it doesn't require knowing specific things like characters' names, this will give you lots more to talk about and you'll both be more motivated to play the game!

If you play this game more than once, will it be interesting or different every time?

Remember if it's a great game you'll play it lots! Can you change the rules to make it easier or harder? Can you create new games with the pieces? Can you use the pieces for pretend play?



KEEPING IT FUN

Let your child take part in leading the game, but guide them along the way.

Feel free to adapt the rules and explore different ways to play the game!

Encourage your child's exploration and curiosity!

Many games are designed with beautiful illustrations and interesting pieces. Talking about these during game play can help your child learn new words, learn new concepts, and practise different types of sentences!



A great way to encourage your child's language, thinking, and social skills is by talking with them during everyday activities! Even when they don't take much time, playing board games can expose children to lots of learning while having fun!



Talk while you set up the game

"Can you put these pieces here?"
"I like the colour of this piece!"

Find a fun way to decide who starts

For example, whoever has their birthday next can be the one to start!

Talk about the game board

"How many bees are flying around the beehive?"
"I see a fish. Can you find another one?"
"Look what's on the die – big and small feet!"



Work together and talk about what moves would be best

"What would happen if you moved your piece that way?"
"Look what happened!"

Talk about your own game moves and what you are thinking about

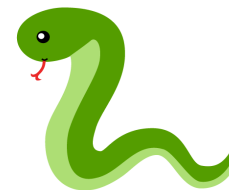
"Watch what's going to happen when I move my car 5 spaces...1, 2, 3, 4, 5!"
"Hmm, I wonder if I should go left or right?"

See if the game comes with a story to start the game, or talk about what happens on a turn in a story-like way

"And now Mr. Penguin says, 'Hey, you found my yellow egg!'"

Expand on things your child says or gently restate if incorrect

If your child says, "blue" (but the colour is actually purple) you can say, "Nice roll, you got purple!"
If your child says "baby", you can expand - "Yes, the die has 3 baby feet!"



Relate things back to your child's life

"Hey, that's just like the ladybug we saw on our walk!"

Help your child deal with frustrations

"It's okay that you missed a turn! I probably will too."
"Let's play again, you might win the next round."