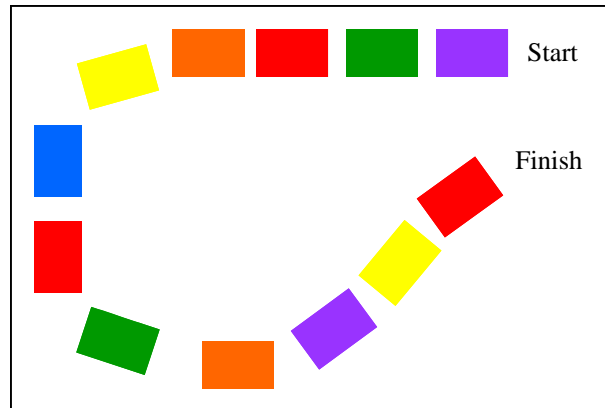


Board Game Ideas

Kids love to create their own board games. Here are a few ideas on how to help them.

For preschoolers, it can be enough to take colored paper (which can be pre-cut into squares or triangles), and glue them to a piece of construction paper or posterboard to make a simple game.

They can arrange the squares in any order, and add short cuts that skip ahead (like Candyland). You can help them write "start" and "finish", and they can decorate the game with stickers, markers, crayons, etc.



They can then use a spinner, dice, or any combination of both to move through the game board. Provide an assortment of small items as game pieces. Small cars, gemstones, or coins can be used.

For older children, they should be challenged to incorporate academic information into the game they create. For instance, after gluing down the colored squares in the desired pattern, they could write a series of adjectives and anyone who lands on the square has to give an antonym for it.

This can be done with math facts, too. For instance, each square can be numbered and then when someone lands on a square, they have to add, multiply, or subtract the number they roll on the dice with the number on the square. For triple addend practice, they can roll two dice and add the dice numbers plus the number on the square (triple addends).

The possibilities are endless! Game cards can be made with commands to answer questions about geography, astronomy, health, history, botany, or zoology. Each time the player lands on a square, they have to pick a game card and give an answer.

Questions can be as simple as, "Find North America on a globe", or more difficult, like "Find a strait in South America". Encourage kids to use the knowledge they have gained from nomenclature cards, research, etc. to put in their game. This kind of review really helps them internalize concepts.

Please note: this PDF is copyrighted by Montessori for Everyone and is free for personal use only. Please do not upload it to any other website or file-sharing service (like Scribd). Thanks!