

Making a board game tips and help

1. Have a look at board games you own already or those you know well. What things do they have in common? How are they different?
2. Think about what you noticed. What kind of board game would you like to invent? Lots of board games have a journey that players must go on. Some build in cards that ask questions; others have chance cards. Most board games offer each player a special piece to represent them on the board.
3. You might like to create a board game that takes place in an interesting world -- that might become your theme. You could choose Ancient Egypt and design a Pyramid for the middle of your board, and special game pieces that look like the gods of Ancient Egypt. Or you might make a game set in Cupcake Land and make a tiny bakery from recycled card.
4. Many games have timers, dice, or spinners that dictate game play. Think how you might like to make these pieces.
5. All games need rules. Make a list of rules you think you need and then try playing the game. Adjust the rules as you come across problems.
6. Once you have a few ideas, gather together the supplies you might need. You might like to sketch out some rough ideas on paper first -- that helps lots of people plan a project. Then it's time to start creating!
7. As soon as you've made your game, invite some friends to test it out by playing it with you. Make sure everyone understands the rules.

PARENT TIPS:

All you need to make the simplest board games is a large piece of paper, some crayons, a die and some imagination. But with a few extra supplies and ideas you can go a lot further...

- Ask children to gather a collection of stickers - character stickers, small round stickers, small square stickers etc - a file folder, and some felt tips, and they can create a masterpiece. You just need a start space, a finish space, and a few child-designed hazards along the way!
- A large square or rectangle of corrugated cardboard cut out of the side of a large cardboard box can be the beginnings of a new game. How about covering it with

fabric and using felt shapes for spaces? Or you could use paper mache techniques if you're feeling really adventurous.

- Perhaps make a stack of small cards from a finished cereal box so that they can create their own forfeits or challenges to go alongside the game.
- Suggest a theme - jungle adventure, pirate adventure, explorers - and cut out some pictures from magazines or print clipart off the internet to help add some excitement to the game board.
- Make a family game board using photos of members of the family.
- A large box lid can become a 3-D game. Gather together your collection of bottle tops, yoghurt pots and other bits and pieces, and cut holes into the lid into which to sit the deeper items. Stick small boxes onto the top too if you want - think "Mousetrap" and get the game pieces climbing in and out and up and down along the path to the finish!
- Use paper money from an existing board game or print out some of ours.