

Supporting Children with their Mathematical Thinking by Playing Board Games

There are many board games that directly teach and reinforce maths knowledge; quite a number of these are used in school and there are many that can easily be downloaded from the internet. However, it's important not to under estimate the skills that can be taught and learnt from playing family boards games that many of us have at home.

Maths Games



Bingo

There are many bingo style games that practice: calculations, time, data handling, fractions. These are usually very visual and show a variety of representations.

Smart Kids

Smart kids are a brand of games that are generally bought in sets and usually cover a range of mathematical concepts. These are usually counter and dice games



Orchard Games

Orchard Games are usually thought of being pre-KS2 games, however it is important not to underestimate the value of playing games that can reinforce and consolidate basic mathematical knowledge.

Maths Snap

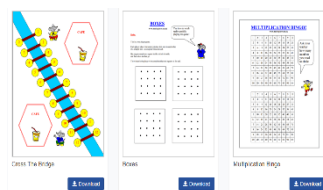
These are great games to consolidate rapid recall of facts.



Maths Board Games to Download and Print from the Internet

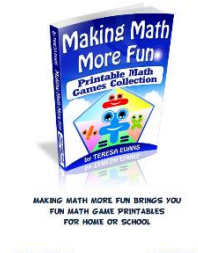
There are many sites on the internet that have free maths games to download and print. These are a range used to consolidate learning, develop knowledge and mathematical thinking.

<https://matheasily.com/printable-math-games.html>



<http://www.mathsphere.co.uk/resources/MathSphereFreeResourcesBoardgames.htm>

<http://www.mathematicshed.com/uploads/1/2/5/7/12572836/21funmathgames.pdf>





<https://www.math-salamanders.com/math-addition-games.html>

Family Board Games



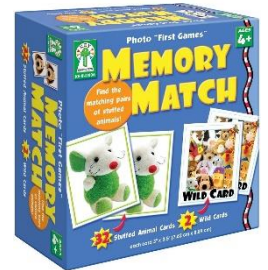
Monopoly

Monopoly uses many mathematical skills including: money, change, profit, doubling, debt, loans, income tax. The list could go on, however it's really important that children are taught and allowed to do the maths rather than others doing it for them. Decision making and taking calculated risks is also vital.



Kim's Game and Pairs

It is easy to under estimate the value of playing memory games. A lot of maths is about remembering facts; memory skills are only developed with practise.



Connect 4, Othello and Draughts

As simple as the concept is for these two games, it's easy to underestimate the thinking skills that happen to be able to play effectively. There a lot of forward thinking and strategies required to win these.



Dominos and Triominos

There are many versions of dominos including scoring with multiplies of 3 and 5, along with just matching numbers. The concept of Triominos is very easy, however, it isn't as easy as it looks.



Card Games and Uno

It is easy to underestimate the problem solving skills and decision making that is required to play cards. Card games like Rummy, Sevens and Trumps are part luck but also require good decision as to what card to play when. Similar, Uno is a game of strategy of what to play and when, e.g. holding onto +4 cards and wild cards till the end or when a neighbour is on the last card.



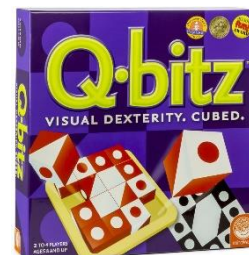
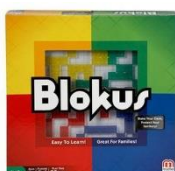
Rummikub and Qwirkle

Rummikub requires players to put down tiles from their rack in either groups or runs. Seeing colours and numbers to gain the highest score wins. Qwirkle is similar but require the players to see the six different colours or shapes to get the highest score. Problem solving skill and seeing patterns is vital to win these games. These are transferable skill that can be used in maths problem solving lessons.



Genius Square, Genius Star and Q-Bitz

These games support children with their special awareness and developing strategies to complete a task. Both of these skills are the fundamentals of shape and space maths work in school.



Mancala

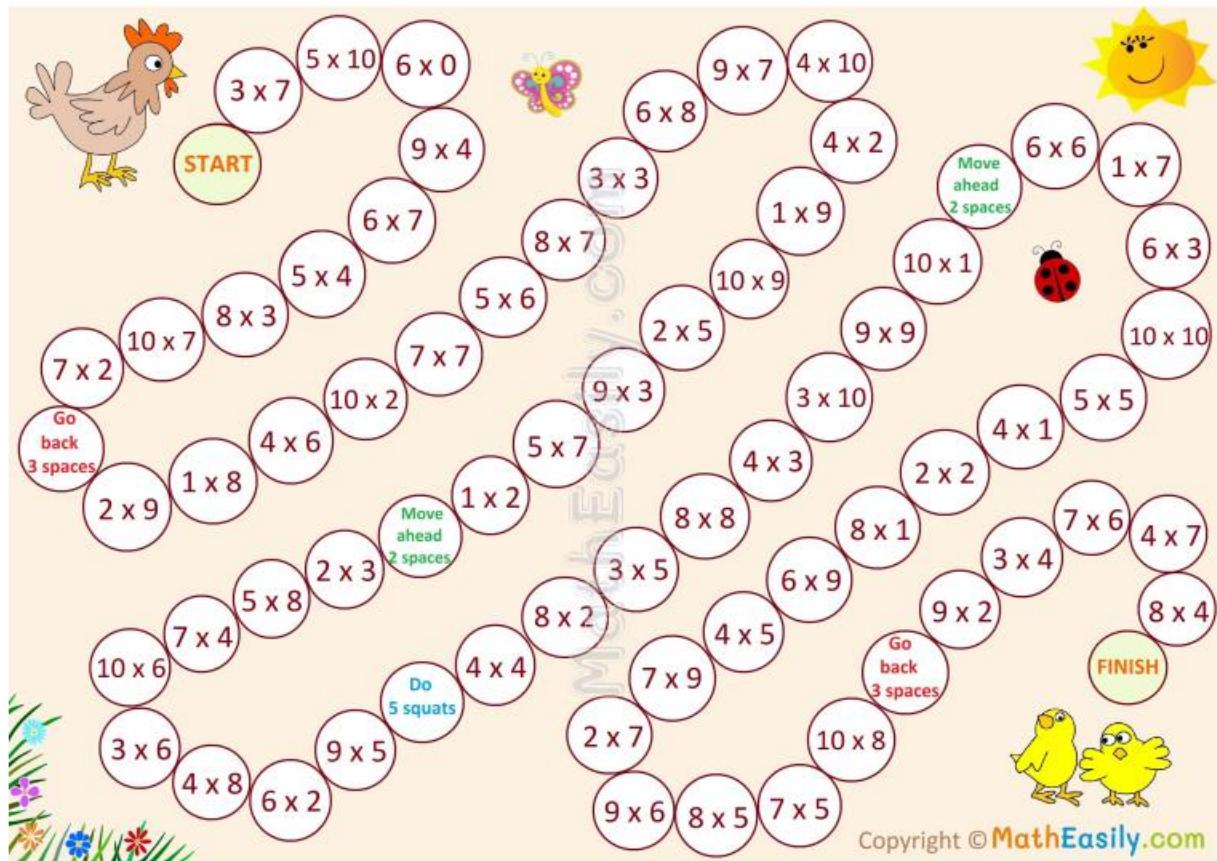
The mancala games are a family of two-player turn-based strategy board games played with small stones, beans, or seeds and rows of holes or pits in the earth, a board or other playing surface. Working systematically and strategically is key in this game; again skills that are needed in all areas of maths



It's very important to not underestimate the range of skills that are required in daily maths lessons. Although many of these games are fun, the transferable skills that can be learnt and developed from games like these (and there are many more!) are priceless.



Multiplication Board Game



<https://matheasily.com/multiplication-board-games.html>

How to play multiplication board game?

You can play multiplication board game in many ways.

You can play multiplication game with your child
or kids can play together.

Do not play multiplication board game with preschool babies.

- Place the board game in the center of the play area: you can put the printed board on the table or even on the floor.
- All players place their game piece on START position.
- Each player rolls the dice and the player with the highest roll has the first turn.
- Players will take turns rolling the dice and moving forward that number of spaces.
- The player must then correctly answer the multiplication problem on that space.
- If they are correct, they can stay on that space.
- If her/his answer is wrong, the player must go back to the previous position.

Download more board games here:

<https://matheasily.com/multiplication-board-games.html>