

# GAME SCHOOLING



# Why Gameschool?

- Reduces being overwhelmed and it is a helpful tool for de-schooling
- Games are fun and build play into your day
- Children learn to navigate their world through play
- Games create positive family culture and changes the atmosphere of the home
- Good games exercise your brain
- Encourages creativity and imagination
- Games build interpersonal skills (SOCIAL SKILLS!) like communication, following directions, listening, turn taking, sharing, cooperation, losing and winning with grace, focus and attention
- Games will teach logic and critical thinking or enhance subject study
- Joyful learning is remembered best; in other words, experience-based learning has stronger retention
- Lifetime memories of fun learning and entertainment to cherish for your family
- [https://themulberryjournal.com/writing-collective/family-life/ultimate-guide-gameschooling#Why\\_gameschool](https://themulberryjournal.com/writing-collective/family-life/ultimate-guide-gameschooling#Why_gameschool)



# How do you gameschool?

- Grow gamers with gateway games
  - <https://thehomeschoolsisters.com/gameschooling/>
- Have one game be a focus for the week and play it each day
- Use a game to start or conclude a lesson or to introduce or reinforce a concept
- Use games as quizzes
- Use games as part of a unit study
- Use games to teach one subject (Ex. Math)
- Play games at the start or end of a school day
- Ask older students to play with siblings while working one-on-one with a single student
- Do game afternoons with other homeschool friends
- Strew games around the home for children to explore
- Create a choice board of games for each child to play throughout the day
- Pair with books that relate to themes or focus of the game
- Gamification: apply principles of gaming to worksheets or other formats

## *7 principles of game-like learning*

Definition: Iteration term means "practice makes perfect"



## PRINCIPLES OF GAME-LIKE LEARNING

- 1 Everyone is a participant
- 2 Failure is reframed as iteration
- 3 Everything is interconnected
- 4 Learning happens by doing
- 5 Feedback is immediate and ongoing
- 6 Challenge is constant
- 7 Learning feels like play



# Game Adaptation

You can easily adapt any game so multiple ages and abilities can play together. Just prepare a set of cards or activities for each child based on skill level.



Connect Four Spelling



Each player 1 game piece.  
Your turn. Pop. Count. Move. My turn.



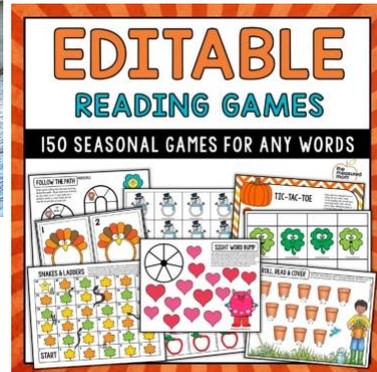
LEGO Duplo Puzzles  
FREE Printables! MATH GEEK MAMA



5 GAMES TO PLAY WITH UNO CARDS  
primary playground



shoot & add NERF GUN MATH!



EDITABLE READING GAMES  
150 SEASONAL GAMES FOR ANY WORDS



20 fun and easy Math card games  
MathGeekMama.com



Musical Sight Words Game  
Move, Groove & Read!



Chutes & Ladders



# Selecting games to play

Consider ages of children or select games that work for all ages

Consider reading levels, aptitude, and skills of children

What are their interests?

What do they need to practice?

How much time and money did you plan to spend on gaming?

Will you and your friends play? (Extends use)

Can a game be modified for easier or harder levels or adapted from original use to something new?

- *Special needs children*
- *Other learning ideas or skills*

Are there local groups that swap or sell games when you are done with it?

# Types of Games

Math

Science

Language Arts

Social Studies

Reaction  
Speed

Memory

Logic-Critical  
Thinking-  
Strategy

Therapy



Gameboard



PC



Console



Create your  
own



Active

# FORMATS

# What is your gameschooling personality?

TAKE A QUIZ at <https://my-little-poppies.com/gameschooling/>  
This website also categorizes by subjects and formats of games.

## Subjects

- Art & Music
- Little Ones (gateway games)
- Coding
- Logic
- Geography
- Math
- Topic specific
- Nature
- History
- Science
- STEM
- Language Arts

## Formats

- Card games
- Single player games
- Cooperative games
- Movement games
- Travel or take-along games
- Funny games
- Waterproof games
- Party games

*"Delight-driven lifelong learning and joyful curiosity"*

**Remember, the main goal is to have fun! There are no rules on WHAT to play. All games offer opportunities to learn and build connections with others.**

### GAMES WORK ON THESE DEVELOPMENTAL SKILLS

- Verbal skills
- Self-regulation
- Turn-taking
- Sharing
- Listening
- Cooperation
- Focus and attention
- Hand-eye coordination
- Following directions
- Creativity
- Social skills
- Learning to lose – and win- with grace
- Critical thinking
- Problem-solving skills
- ... and so much more!

<https://simplehomeschool.net/gameschooling/>



## THINK LIKE A GAMESCHOOLER...

**STEP 1:** Change your mindset. Games count as learning.

*Incorporate activities that reinforce, review and practice skills.*

**STEP 2:** Plan your gameschooling.

*Schedule into your day: after a meal or a related read-aloud, choose a day or evening as game time, use single player games as a break or quiet time. Blend it with a current unit study, as a reward, or use in place of a subject that is frustrating your child or needs more practice. The possibilities are endless. Do what works for your family.*

**STEP 3:** Play...and have fun! *Just the experience is a learning time for everyone. Your children should be happier and more cooperative with time set aside to play and make memories together.*

**STEP 4:** Record your play. *Take photos for your homeschool portfolio or a lapbook. Make a gamelist, like a booklist, to include in teaching plans. Create a digital games portfolio as well, for example, on SeeSaw.*

# Being Thrifty

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Buy secondhand and look for sales and discounts online

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Swap games with friends

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Have a game afternoon or night with other homeschoolers

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Give them as gifts to your family members

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Look for imitation (copies) of popular games

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Make your own or use blank game templates

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Re-purpose old games into new game ideas

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DIY board game kits

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Active play for memorization, math drills, worksheets

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Transform worksheets or workbooks into game-like activities

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Build each child a choice board using Seesaw for online games

# Gameschool Resources

Join [Gameschool Community](#) on Facebook

[My Little Poppies](#) and their [Best Family Games Ultimate Guide](#)

[Our Journey Westward's 100 Educational Games](#)

[What Do We Do All Day](#)

[Nourishing My Scholar's 50 Favorite Games](#)

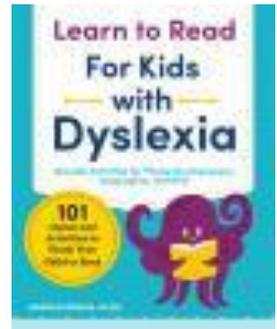
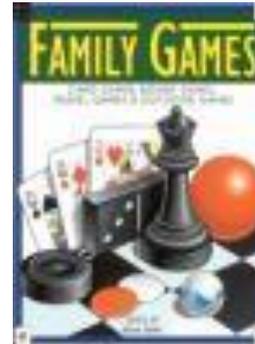
[Stir the Wonder Homemade Game Ideas](#)

[The Measured Mom Printable Games K-2](#)

[250 Free Games from 123homeschool4me](#)

[The Playful Otter \(OTR\)](#)

*includes instructions with adaptations for special needs children*



*...AND MANY MORE!*

**Homeschool Resources**

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