



Gameschooling Guide





THE GAMESCHOOLING GUIDE

Board Games We Love

This is a list of games that Tira Hunter, a fellow unschooling parent, our children and I compiled that have been favourites for our two family's Gameschooling experience. There are so many more games that we have missed, but between our two families, these are games that have stood out over the years.

I have listed them under subject or learning theme. They are not divided by age or competency. I have found that unless a game is geared to a very young audience, skill level and interests can be very individual. Or we have found a way to incorporate or modify a game so that all can be involved.

I have included a few video games and Apps but I know there are many others out there that are well loved and provide immense value to learning and the Gamification process.

Each game has a small description or idea of what kind of skills are built by playing. I have included links to the website or to a purchase site. Some of these links are affiliate links.



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Math Themes/Skills

Prime Climb - Prime Climb uses arithmetic to open a beautiful world of possibility. Players race to be the first to get to the center of the board while avoiding getting knocked back to the start by other players. Highlighting the power of the prime numbers, Prime Climb is mathematical, deep, creative, and fun.

Sequence- Ages 7 & up

Monopoly-Players take the part of land owners, attempting to buy and then develop their land. Income is gained by other players visiting their properties and money is spent when they visit properties belonging to other players. When times get tough, players may have to mortgage their properties to raise cash for fines, taxes and other misfortunes.

Ice Cream Empire- Each player begins with \$300, a delivery truck to be used as a pawn, and eight cones which match the color of the delivery truck chosen. (economics and business)

Black Wall Street- Increase your Financial Literacy and Black History Knowledge. This game was inspired by the real businesses and events from Tulsa, Oklahoma (aka Black Wall Street) , one of the most economically successful communities in American History.

Mancala- Mancala is a game with ancient heritage from Eritrea and Ethiopia, dating back as far as the 6th and 7th century, and is still enjoyed through to this day. The term mancala is derived from the Arabic word, "Naqala," which means, "to move."



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Math Themes/Skills

Rummikub- Players take turns placing numbered tiles in runs (consecutive numbers of the same color, like 2, 3, 4 in red) and groups (three or more of the same number in different colors, like a red 9, a blue 9 and a black 9), rummy style. The Joker tiles add to the fun; they can be any color or number. The object is to be the first to play every tile on your rack. It is a combination of luck and strategy.

Zingo- A fast paced matching game using tiles. There is both math and word Zingo

Pop To The Shops- Handling money and giving change. Players race each other to buy different items with the money they have. The player to collect 6 items first wins.

Yahtzee- The objective of YAHTZEE is to get as many points as possible by rolling five dice and getting certain combinations of dice.

Blokus- Talk about spatial awareness and strategy! Players play with transparent, Tetris-shaped, colored pieces that they are trying to play onto the board. The only caveat to placing a piece is that it may not lie adjacent to your other pieces, but instead must be placed touching at least one corner of your pieces already on the board. The game ends when all players are blocked from laying down any more of their pieces.

Cash Flow- (From Robert Kiyosaki-Rich Dad, Poor Dad) Investing, passive income, monthly expenses, debt and earning a living. Learn and test your financial skills

Card Games - War, Crazy 8's, 31, Go Fish- Check out this website - [40 Great Card Games for all occasions](#)



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Uno- The classic card game where you match cards by value or colour. Be the first to get to 2 cards and shout UNO before reaching your last card- or have to start again!

Tangrams- Puzzles and pattern making using 7 flat polygons. There are many kinds available. I have slowly collected all of our tangrams through second hand stores or hand me downs from my mother-in-law (a retired teacher). Here a few notables we like Learning Resources Classpack, Wood Material- Melissa and Doug or magnetic shapes with board.

Catan- In CATAN, players try to be the dominant force on the island of Catan by building settlements, cities, and roads

Risk- Strategy, planning, problem solving. The goal is conquest of the world.

Backgammon- One of the oldest known board games. Some say it traces back as far as 5000 years ago from what is modern day Iran. It is a two-player game that utilizes counting and strategy.

Dominoes- A tile based game that is wonderful that utilizes counting and strategy.

Exploding Kittens- This is the website for this game, plus many other fun, modern card games.

Unstable Unicorns- Modern card based game

Connect 4- 2 player game- grids, patterns and problem solving



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Shamory- Bitcoin Card Game- Authenticated STEM education product.

Swish- Spatial Card Game

Set- Card Game that uses visualization and logic

5 Crown- Rummy Style Card Game

Spot It- Pattern Recognition Card Game

Qwixx- Dice Game- Strategic thinking, Probability

Sudoku- This website offers free play, how to and tips- <https://sudoku.com/>

Coding & Video Games

Scratch-<https://scratch.mit.edu/>

Minecraft- Online game. A family favourite

Roblox- Global Platform

Free Coding- <https://code.org/>

Fortnite- Shooter, Defence-Survival Video Game (XBox)

Sims- Life simulation game. Please note- There is mature content in the game. (App)

Animal Crossing- Life Simulation Game



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Phase 10- Card game similar to Rummy. Counting and Strategy

Payday- Family Board Game about handling Finances

Slamwich- Sequencing and visual awareness which also is a great concept for reading

Proof- Mental Math Game

Zeus On The Loose- Card game that uses strategy and counting but ties into mythological history as well

Forbidden Island Game- Strategy and Cooperative Play

Jaipur- Two player trading game

Quarto- Pattern and Strategy Game

Munchkin Deluxe- Card based strategy game

Trash Panda- Strategic Card Game

History Theme

Timeline- Timeline is a card game where each card depicts a historical event, invention or discovery on both sides, with the year in which that event occurred, invention or discovery was made on only one side.



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Literacy- Vocabulary, Reading and Word Games

After Words- Think fast before time runs out and name a word that begins with the letter in play on the board

Quiddler- Quiddler challenges players to create words from an ever-increasing number of letter cards in their hand.

Scrabble- Lettered tiles that are strategically placed to make high scoring words. A Classic.

Bananagrams - A word tile game. Players must arrange one's tile into a grid of connected words faster than your opponent. The first to complete a word grid after all of the tiles have been used wins.

Word Around-Who knew that positioning a word in one continuous ring would make it so tricky to read? The challenge in Word A Round is to quickly figure out where the word starts and then read it aloud before your opponents.

Story Cubes- Roll the cubes and create stories from the pictures on the cubes.

Ticket To Ride- Build your railroad across different parts of the world to connect cities and complete tickets.

Storymatic For Kids- Unique card combinations prompt stories, characters, scenes, situation and plots.



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Literacy- Vocabulary, Reading and Word Games

Blurt- Rapid word recall. Players take turns reading clues aloud competing to blurt the correct answer first and move ahead on the board.

Professor Noggin-<https://amzn.to/3xoZz6C> (geography) Professor Noggin comes in science editions as well.

Alphabet Soup- Build words, one letter at a time, by choosing either to throw the 30-sided Letter Die or use up one of the designated letters A-Z on the scoresheet. The longer the words, the higher your score.

7 Habits For Happy Kids-Created by the authors of the best-selling 7 Habits series. Work your way around the board as a family, reading anecdotes together, sharing thoughtful, personal responses and listening to each other

Pictionary-Guess what your team is drawing so you can Win, Lose, or Draw.

Madlibs-Fun word game. There are a TON of Madlibs books and there is an App now too! This is the link to the printables on the Madlibs website-

<https://www.madlibs.com/printables/>

Scrabble Slam Card Game

Balderdash- Fun Definition Game



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Literacy- Vocabulary, Reading and Word Games

Over Under- Game of Wacky Facts

Scattegories- Fun, fast team word game

Taboo- Guess the word or person without using obvious clues

I Should Have Known That-Trivia Game

Trivial Pursuit- Knowledge and Facts Game

5 Second Rule- Think fast and shout it out

Clue- Solve the crime with clues

Dixit- Storytelling Game

Beat The Parents- Trivia Game

Unsolved Case Files- Review and study the evidence to solve the crime

Crossword Puzzles- Dollar Stores, Bookstores and Amazon



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Movement Games, Activities & Associations

Ski For Free-<https://www.skicanada.org/grade-4-5%20-snowpass>

First Tee-<https://firsttee.org/>

<https://firsttee.org/2020/08/10/golf-canada-partners-with-first-tee-to-establish-first-tee-canada/>

Kids Skate Free-<https://kidsskatefree.com/>

Kid Bowl Free-<https://www.kidsbowlfree.com/>

Tag- There are so many variations. Basic "Your It" Tag, Fruit tag(each person thinks of a fruit. The person that is "it" calls out a fruit name. If they guess your fruit, you have to try and run past them to the other side without getting tagged. You can do other variations with colours, toys or food.

Beat That- 10 rounds of challenges. Pick up a challenge card and read it aloud. All players then place a bet on their own ability to complete the challenge. Once bets are placed, go around the circle attempting the challenge. Players who succeed bank their points. The player with the most points at the end of 10 rounds is the champion!

Charades- There are board games available for this but it can be just as fun coming up with your own themes and ideas and having each player "act it out".

Minute To Win It- Complete funny, nerve wracking tasks in under a minute.



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Science Themed

Scabs and Guts- Players take turns to move around the body shaped game board while attempting to answer the multiple choice questions from one of three unique body categories-scrapes, scabs, blood, guts, blubber or buff.

Science Explosion- Be the first player to explode the volcano using science topic cards.

Totally Gross The Game of Science- Travel around the game board answering questions and engaging in antics. When your "slime" stretches to number 10 on the score line that player is ready to perform a lab experiment.

Organ Attack Card Game- Remove your opponents organs using corresponding afflictions before they remove yours! The last person to have at least one organ is the winner.

Flux card game- Card game

Cytosis-Cell Biology Game- Takes place inside a human cell. Players start out with workers and place one worker in any available location within that cell on each turn. Resources are used to build enzymes, hormones and/or receptors which score health points.

Guess in 10- Animal Planet- Card Game



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Building - Planning, spatial awareness

Tinker Toys- Wooden building pieces

Wooden Blocks-(self explanatory)

City Engineering and Building- Ages 5+ Build your own city

Splashology- Water science kit. Water, buoyancy, flow.

Puzzles

Lego- Another family favourite. Days upon days of play.

Magformers- A simple construction set that my children have enjoyed.

Tsuro- Family Strategy Game

Azul- Strategy Tile Placement Game

I hope you enjoy these list games. I know there are many more to share and I will continue to update our growing list. Feel free to reach out and connect with me if you have any questions, or would like to share your family favourite games and practices.