

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN) Parent and Provider Resource: Activities for Distance Learning

Growing and Learning through Play

The following activity will support your child's learning while they are at home. Talk to your child and ask questions as you play. As your child listens to you, your child builds language and social skills, further reinforcing the concepts you are teaching. Match activities to your child's favorite books, songs, or toys to make them more meaningful learning experiences. Visit our website at www.chs-ca.org and click on the *News and Events* tab for more learning resources.

SCHOOL AGE - Activity: Design a Board Game

What you need:

- One side of a cardboard box
- Markers
- Pencil with eraser
- Ruler
- Buttons
- Dice or a **homemade spinner**
- Index cards

What to do:

- Invite children to make their own board game
- Ask children to start by planning their game. Use the following questions to guide children through their design process. What kind of game will it be? How many people can play? How will it be played (dice, spinner, drawing cards)? What are the rules for the game? How will you decide who goes first? What supplies are needed to make the game? What is the objective of the game?
- Children can use the piece of cardboard as a game board. They may want to draw the game grid with a pencil and ruler first, then trace over the pencil design with markers.
- Buttons, coins, or small toys can be used as game pieces to represent the players. When playing with younger children, supervise the use of small pieces closely to avoid choking hazards, or select objects that are too large to fit through a paper towel tube.
- Dice or a **homemade spinner** can be used for directions (e.g. how many spaces forward, skip a turn, etc.).
- Index cards can also be used for directions (e.g. if you land on a red square, then you pull a red card and do what it says).
- As children design and create their game, they will practice math skills and critical thinking, by considering the layout and instructions of the game.
- They will also think about the social aspects of the game. Topics like how to make the rules fair and how to include everyone may arise during planning and gameplay.
- Once they have created their game, ask them to teach you how to play it. Keep it out as an activity to enjoy together.
- Encourage children to design more board games or card games that you can play together.

What the activity does:

- Practices math and critical thinking skills
- Develops social skills and empathy
- Builds language and literacy
- Strengthens fine motor skills

