



The many
little joys



SIMPLIFYING LIFE. SAVORING MOTHERHOOD.

I hope you enjoy this free printable!

Please remember that by downloading any printables from The Many Little Joys, you agree to the following Terms of Use.

This printable is for personal, non-commercial use only. You may not sublicense, sell, share, transfer, redistribute or modify it in any way.

WHAT YOU ARE ALLOWED TO DO:

- Print them as many times as you like for personal use.
- Use a printout of the printables to create personal gifts for others.
- Feel free to share photos of the printable projects you've made or links to blog posts. Tag [meg_themanylittlejoys](#) and [#themanylittlejoys](#). I'd love to see you enjoying these activities with your family!

WHAT YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DO:

- Resell or commercially redistribute our printables digitally or in print.
- Forward, share or redistribute the digital files via email or any other means. If you want to share these printables with others, please refer them to my site where they can download the files for themselves.
- Share our printable PDF files in any other way, such as on a website, blog, social media, file sharing service, USB drive, CD, DVD, etc.
- Remove any copyright notations that may appear on the printables.

Copyright always remains with The Many Little Joys.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [meg {at} themanylittlejoys {dot} com](mailto:meg@themanylittlejoys.com).

Thank you and enjoy!

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN BOARD GAME

A CREATIVE LEARNING ACTIVITY FOR KIDS

Materials Needed:

- A handful of board games to use for inspiration
- "What makes a game?" brainstorming packet
- paper or poster board
- pencils, markers, etc.
- assorted craft supplies (stickers, clay, pipe cleaners, etc...use whatever you have on hand)

Preparation:

1. Gather a stack of board games (leave card games and dice games out for this activity). Simple games work best. Consider games like these:
 - Chutes and Ladders
 - Candy Land
 - Clue
 - Monopoly
 - Life
 - Sorry
 - Trouble
2. Print the "What makes a game?" brainstorming worksheets.

Activity Instructions:

STEP 1: Explore existing games

Look at the board games together and discuss the five questions on the "What makes a game?" sheet.

1. What THEMES or SETTINGS do games have?
2. How do you WIN different games?
3. What do ALL board games have?
4. What do SOME board games have?
5. What makes a game fun to YOU?

STEP 2: Plan your own game

Once you have explored the features of various games and discussed what makes a game fun to play, encourage your child to plan out their own game!

Use the "Design your own game" printable planning sheet to help your child think through all the things they need to decide for their game:

- Theme
- Title
- Goal
- Players
- Rules
- Materials

Step 3: Sketch your board game design

I highly recommend having kids sketch out their plan for their game before you give them their final materials to make the game. This will give them a chance to finalize their ideas and it gives you a chance to ask questions and help them fill in any gaps in the plan.

Step 4: Make your game

Now all the planning is done, so it's time to get out all the craft supplies and get building.

Step 5: Play your new game!

This is the best part! Plan a family game night, and take the opportunity to really celebrate their hard work and creativity by playing together!



What makes a game?



Think about the board games you have played before. Then, use the boxes below to brainstorm what makes a game...a game!



What **THEMES** or **SETTINGS** do games have?

How do you **WIN** different games?

What do **MOST** board games have?

What do **SOME** board games have?

What makes a game fun to **YOU**?



Design your own game:



Now that you've examined other creator's games, it's time to design your own!



THEME
(What is the setting & how will you decorate it?)

TITLE
(What will your game be called?)

GOAL
(How does a player win?)

PLAYERS
(How many people can play? What will the playing pieces look like?)

RULES
(How do you play?)

MATERIALS
(What do you need to be able to make your game?)

Sketch your own game

Draw out how you want your game to look. Then, you'll be ready to make the final version!

