

Games to Support Executive Function Skills

Working Memory & Sustained Attention

1. Distraction

Players practice recall skills by taking turns drawing cards and remembering a string of numbers while being interrupted by silly questions.



2. Simon

In this classic electronic game, players have to remember a sequence of colored lights and tones. Try to beat your best score or play against your friends.



3. Cartoon It!

Memorize a goofy cartoon picture, then draw it from memory! This game not only strengthens memory and drawing skills, but also provides an opportunity to discuss strategies that aid in memorization.



Planning, Organization & Problem-Solving

4. Rush Hour

Plan how to move cars strategically to get out of the traffic jam. Easy set up with levels for players of all ages.



5. Clue

Find out who did it! Players use strategic planning to ask questions and organize information as they race to be the first one to solve the crime.



6. Cat Crimes or Dog Crimes

Cat/Dog Crimes is a kinesthetic logic puzzle with four different challenge levels. Players use sequential reasoning, logic, and organization skills to find the cat who committed the crime. An added bonus is this game strengthens reading comprehension skills!



7. Settlers of Catan

Build and develop settlements as you trade resources and earn victory points. This challenging game requires a great amount of strategic planning and logical thinking. Great for middle school age and above.



8. Rack-o

Practice organizing numbers as you make decisions to keep or switch cards, while developing number sense and problem-solving skills at the same time.



Flexible Thinking

9. Set

In this fast moving, family game of visual perception, players create "sets" of three cards where each feature is the same or different. This game builds logical thinking, as well as visual-spatial reasoning skills.



10. Swish

Players compete to find the most "swish" matches where each ball fits into a hoop, strengthening spatial awareness and requiring players to look at shapes and patterns in different ways.



Impulse Control

11. <u>Jenga</u>

This classic game requires turn-taking and patience as players work collaboratively to make the tallest tower. Add some academic skills to this game by writing math facts or sight words on the individual wooden pieces.



12. Slamwich

Notice patterns as cards are played to make a "slamwich" and win points. This fast-moving, hands-on game uses skills of attention, focus, memory, and controlling impulses so as not to lose cards.

