

# SCREEN - FREE learning games to keep your kid's brain sharp and active

What is the solution to make learning and brain development fun?

There are a variety of games and activities that will keep them away from screens, help develop their thinking, all while keeping them entertained and their minds stimulated: brain games! Child's play is an integral part of development. Children do not play just to entertain themselves. From the time they are born, they are constantly learning. When your infant reaches out to you to get the soft toy, they are learning.

They just learned that they can stretch their arm out to touch the toy. They learned that they reach out with their arms to get that toy. Learning and development are constantly happening, but it's our duty to enable that learning with positive reinforcements.

There are various skills acquired while playing brain games for kids:

- Analytical Thinking
- Comprehension
- Spatial Awareness
- Conceptual Learning
- Lateral and Critical Thinking
- Creativity
- Problem-Solving
- Linguistic enhancement and so much more!

## 1. Board Games

A visit to the local toy store or big box retailer and you may soon be overwhelmed by all of your choices. Here are some of our top choices for summer.

**Battleship** – This game has been around for decades. Two players face each other while trying to guess the positioning of the other's fleet on a grid. It involves logic and a bit of strategy in order to hit and sink all of the other player's ships and win the game.

**Clue** – This mystery solving game is a well-beloved classic that even has a movie made around its key elements. Players have to use a number of clues in order to solve who did the murder, where it happened, and how it was done.

**Connect Four etc.**

<https://daringtolivefully.com/board-games-and-life-skills>

## 2. Math Games

Even for kids who list math as their least favorite subject can learn to love it through playing math games. Here are some games to help teach math skills while they're busy having fun.

**Dominoes** – Dominoes can be a fun way to keep kids engaged and thinking about math. Dominoes can be used to add, subtract, multiply and divide by giving each a set of numbers to put into problems to solve. If a domino has five dots on one half of it, and three on the other side, the numbers could be added up to make a sum of eight, or multiplied to equal 40.

**Bingo** – This is one of the best ways for kids to learn math, no matter what grade level they are at. Elementary grade students can learn addition and subtraction, while middle school and high school students can get familiar with more complex math concepts like multiplication, division, fractions, and even geometry and algebra. You can create your own [math bingo cards](#) by putting answers on a card and then play by calling out math problems that your kids have to solve to get a bingo.

[\*\*Bagel Pico Fermi\*\*](#) is a math game where one person writes down a 3 or 4 digit number and the guessers try and figure it out based on process of elimination and strategy. If you have ever played the board game [\*\*Mastermind\*\*](#), it is similar to that. This game can be played with pencil and paper or a white board and dry erase markers.

## 3. Brain Games

Just about any number or word game can be used to sharpen the brain. Games like Sudoku can teach number patterns and recognition. Vocabulary games which include Scrabble and Scattergories can help develop language skills. Other games which pose questions to players, like in the game Trivial Pursuit, can sharpen knowledge of history, culture, and world events.

### SUDOKU

<http://printablesudoku.blogspot.com/search/label/EASY%20PUZZLES>  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/kids-sudoku-free-puzzles-2312572>  
<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/sudoku-for-kids>

### TANGRAM

<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/tangrams>  
<https://www.tangram-channel.com/crafts-activities/tangrams-to-cut-out/>

Instructions for puzzles: <https://www.puzzlemix.com/rules.php>

## 4. Card games

What roadtrip or camping expedition would be complete without a deck of playing cards? A standard [deck of playing cards](#) can be used to teach math, strategy and matching through a wide variety of games.

## 5. Matching & Memory Games

Everyone could use a bit of a memory boost. [Matching and memory games](#) can go hand in hand in teaching kids (and adults) to recognize patterns to improve cognitive skills.

**Memory** – There are scores of memory and matching games available with everything that is enticing to kids from shapes, wild animals, and numbers and even your favorite movie characters or superheroes. Cards are shuffled and placed face down then turned over. When matches are made, they are left face up or removed until all matches are made.

## 6. Word games

Reading and writing are both fantastic summer activities for kids of all ages. Why not introduce kids to [some word games](#) that can keep them sharpening their vocabulary, spelling and writing skills?

**Scrabble** – This classic crossword game is great for kids from 8 years to adult. It's great for increasing vocabulary, spelling skills and a bit of strategy.

**Scattergories** – Players have the opportunity to brainstorm and think creatively on their own or on a team. The object is to find words which will fit in certain categories. It's a great way to build vocabulary and knowledge while having fun doing it. Players have to stretch their vocabularies if they want to win!

## 7. Strategy games

What kids can learn from playing strategy games

- To develop their critical thinking skills
- To detect patterns in game play
- To plan out their moves based on what they think their opponent might do
- To consider and weigh many outcomes as they think about their best possible move
- To consider and adjust their approach when it doesn't work

Critical thinking skills and being able to see the potential moves of your opponent are all a part of [strategy games](#). It's just the thing to keep young and old minds engaged and focused!



Osnovna šola  
dr. A. Trstenjaka Negova

**Risk** – Older kids are sure to love this game that involves not only geography concepts, but also tactics and strategy in battle. The person who is able to claim all the territory on the board wins the game.

**Chess** – Originally created in ancient Persia, this game has been enjoyed by players around the world for centuries. Chess teaches critical thinking and being able to intuit your opponent's next moves in addition to patterns of play.

## 8. Brain teasers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmUgHsCP3qo>

<https://icebreakerideas.com/brain-teasers/>

<https://www.puzzleprime.com/archives/>

<https://www.everythingmom.com/parenting/45-riddles-and-brain-teasers-for-kids>

<https://answersafrica.com/brain-teasers-answers.html>

<https://www.fluentu.com/blog/educator-english/riddles-for-esl-students/>

## MORE SCREEN-FREE BRAIN GAMES:

<https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/brain-games-for-kids/>

<https://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/chgames.html>

<https://nrich.maths.org/9086>