

10 BOARD GAMES TO TURN INTO HANDWRITING GAMES

- 1 || Scatergories Jr.** There is no adaptation needed to make Scatergories into a handwriting game, as kids are already writing their answers down. Sub out the lined answer sheets that come with the game to use adapted paper as needed.
- 2 || Spot it** Make it a "silent" game! Instead of shouting out the answer, kids have to write down the word for the picture they find on both cards!
- 3 || Zingo Word Builder** This one's easy – simply have kids write their words on their paper after they build them!
- 4 || Guess Who?** If another player says "yes" to a question, the other player has to write down that character trait. This way, each child is making a list of traits the character has and can check their remaining characters to see if they fit all of the descriptions on their list!
- 5 || Scrabble Junior** Simply have kids write the word they formed on the game board after each turn!
- 6 || HedBanz** Have kids write down the clues they find out from other players as they ask questions about their own card. For example, if they ask the group "is my card an animal?" and the group answers "no", the child would write down – "Not an animal". Then, the child can use his paper to remember the clues each time he takes a turn.
- 7 || Charades** Play regular charades, only kids can't call out their guesses – they have to write them down and show the person who is acting out the clue to see if they're right!
- 8 || Don't Say It** Make a rule that the team can't call out their guesses – they have to write them down!
- 9 || 5 Second Rule** You'll need to add some time to the clock to make this into a handwriting game. Challenge kids to write their 3 answers instead of calling them out. Decrease the length of time for more of a challenge or add more time to the clock to make it a little easier. Change how many items they have to write down in the category as needed.
- 10 || Blurt** Have kids write their answer after hearing the definition instead of calling it out.

TIPS FOR USING BOARD GAMES AS WRITING GAMES

1 || Try carrying games over between multiple sessions.

Using board games as handwriting games typically makes the game take a bit longer than it normally would. Rather than rushing, try making note of where you left off and then pick up the same game again across multiple sessions.

2 || Silent play can make things more fun and increase opportunities for writing.

Making a rule that there is no talking during the game is a great way to get kids' attention – they love doing familiar tasks in a different, more interesting way! And when kids aren't allowed to talk, it means that they have to write their answers or write things down to communicate. It's a win-win!

3 || Assign a scorekeeper!

Younger, less experienced, or struggling writers may need a different role during these games. Can they act as scorekeeper – writing down all of the players' names and keeping track of points?

4 || Use turn-taking to your advantage.

While one person is taking his turn, the person who went before him can be writing her word/answer. This way, game play is continuous and the whole group is never waiting for one person to write.

5 || Use games as an opportunity to trial adapted handwriting paper and grips

Game play can be a low-pressure way to try out different types of lined paper and to see which pencil grip works best for which kid.