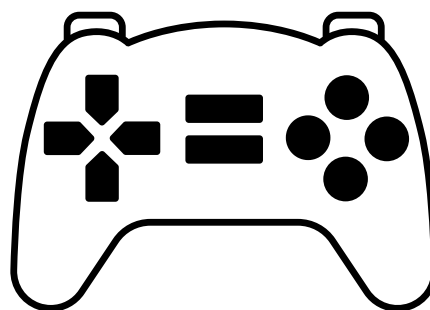
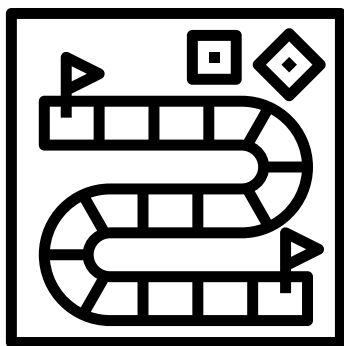
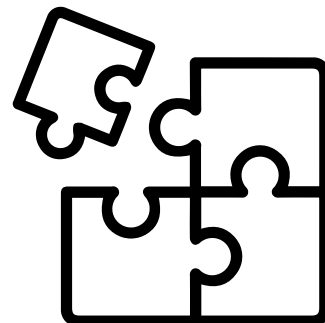
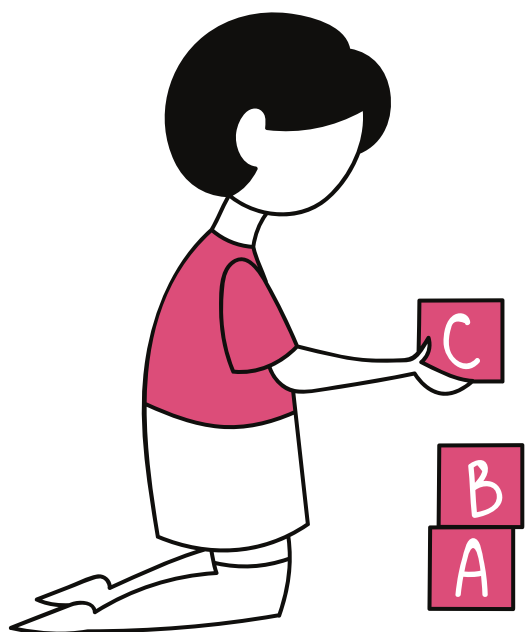




Gypsy Gameschooler's Guide to Gaming With a Preschooler



Thank you so much for downloading my Guide to Gaming With Preschoolers!

If you'd like to share it with others - thank you! Please send them to [my website](#) so they can download it for themselves. Your license gives you, and only you, use of this file.

Be sure to also check out my book, *Gameschooling on a Budget*, for lots of ideas for free and affordable game play for your family.

If you'd like more downloads to help your gameschooling journey, check out my Etsy page!

Gypsy Gameschooler is a labor of love for me, and it is my hope that it can eventually pay for itself. Maybe someday it'll help contribute to paying the bills. In any case, every click on an affiliate link and every purchase helps bring me one step closer, so thank you! I appreciate you!

Finally, I hope this Guide helps you out and gives you ideas for how you can incorporate games into your life, even with a preschooler in tow.

Happy gaming!

Ashley

Gaming Without Preschooler

Many preschoolers are no longer napping, plus, being involved is super important to this age group. So your best bet is after your preschooler goes to bed, or if they go to preschool or daycare.

Gaming With Preschooler

If you want to play a game your preschooler can't play yet, you might be able to pacify them by giving them their own cards/pieces (from a different game) and letting them "play" with you.

Another option is to modify the rules for them. Maybe they don't have to follow all the steps of the turn. Maybe, they can do whatever they want on their turn, as long as it doesn't directly impact any pieces currently on the board.

Sometimes, playing in teams helps.

Maybe they just want to be in charge of spinning the spinner or moving a pawn each turn.

Games for Preschoolers

There are so many great games today!! When I was a kid, it seemed Candy Land was the only option, but now you have many. Check out the [preschool games](#) my family has tried, but don't be shy about trying others. I've also heard great things about Yeti in my Spaghetti, Sneaky Snacky Squirrel, and many others.

Remember: The age ranges printed on the boxes are indicative of the amount of testing a game has been put through. Games for toddlers have to go through the most testing, as toddlers are still likely to put everything in their mouths. But if your kids are past this stage, they may be able to play games that are marketed for older kids.

Games designed and marketed for preschoolers are a great starting point. From there, you can better gauge your child's capabilities and expand your game collection appropriately.

Cooperative Games

Cooperative games are great for introducing young children to gaming. When you're playing cooperatively, it's easy to play with open hands, communicate, and share ideas and strategies. If a game is a bit beyond your child's capabilities, cooperative games make it easy for you to support them and provide scaffolding so they can have a successful gaming experience.

Many kids go through a super-competitive phase around age 5. Cooperative games can make navigating this stage easier while continuing to work on sportsmanship skills.

It can also be really fun to modify games that are usually competitive and make them cooperative. We've done this with a number of games my kids weren't ready to play competitively yet (like spelling games), and also when my son couldn't handle a competitive game.

Know Your Kids' Capabilities

You don't need any sort of formal assessment for this. Just keep in mind what your kids can do. Cooperative games and games targeted at preschoolers will help you determine if your kids can handle more. (I only mention this, because I have a bad habit of purchasing games my kids aren't ready for yet. Then we try to play them, and all end up frustrated! I'm slowly learning patience.)

Time of Day

Keep in mind what time of day your child is their best at. You want to approach games, especially new or challenging games, when your child is well-rested and not hungry. Some families enjoy snacking during game play. This wasn't something I could do when my kids were preschoolers, but now that they're older, it's been a great way to facilitate a great time for everyone.

Acquiring Games

There are so many ways to gameschool without breaking the bank! Some of my favorite ways to acquire games are at thrift stores and using free print-and-play games. Work within your budget and get creative.

Storing Games

You can facilitate your gaming peace by making some intentional choices in how you store your games.

Store expensive games that have many parts out of reach of your preschooler. The odds of them getting down a game and losing some pieces are pretty great, so make sure that your teenager's favorite games are kept where your preschooler can't get to them.

At the same time, store your preschooler's games where they can reach them. Even if they lose a few pieces, they're going to outgrow them soon, anyway. Plus, you're smart and you thrifted those games anyway, right? So it's okay if a few pieces go missing. Storing some games where your youngsters can access them themselves will help them feel independent and successful while discouraging them from trying to get to your more expensive games.

Preschool Attention Spans

Remember, your preschooler's attention span is short. With my kids, I found their attention span to be longer with games than with other learning experiences, but they were still short. Facilitate success by playing lots of short games.

It's okay to take a break from a game (as long as you don't have a toddler who's going to come by and eat a piece!) and come back to it later. It's also okay to decide you're done well before the game is actually done. If you notice enthusiasm starting to wane, it's time to wrap it up and go play outside!