

### **The Board Gaming Experience**

Board games can vary from very simple games like Candyland to high level strategy games such as Chess. In between these two extremes, there are thousands of games that offer opportunities to teach children such skills as teambuilding, analytics, collaboration, and general social skills. As a bonus, this can all be done while they are having fun with family members or friends.

Teambuilding skills can be used when paired with a player to play against others. In this way, you are relying on each other for the benefit of the whole team – just like on a sports team. This pairing will require good communication for their success as a team. Collaboration skills can be learned during a cooperative game where all players are on a team aiming for one main goal to win. This is another situation in which you must communicate with others about what you are trying to accomplish and often hand out specific roles based on players strengths in the game. The emphasis on communication helps with overall social skills throughout the encounter.

Negotiation is a skill that may be an important aspect of a game that players must learn to advance their position while sacrificing other elements to complete a deal. A player may also have to use analytical skills during a game to determine what move might help them best by reviewing their position in relation to others. They may have to use analytical skills to determine what strategy to use based on the available actions. This type of play may increase their use of critical thinking. They may also use this skill to analyze other players actions to see how it impacts their own play.

Board games can also help with learning patience by having to take turns with others. Kids may also learn sharing and good sportsmanship with their participation in these games. There are many fundamental life skills that can be learned or enhanced through the play of strategy board games. To read more about learning from board games, please visit any of the following links:

<https://www.irishnews.com/lifestyle/2019/10/29/news/why-playing-board-games-is-so-good-for-kids-and-how-to-get-them-to-join-in-1748563/>

<https://www.habausa.com/blog/life-skills-board-games-can-teach-your-kids/>

<https://investmentsense.co.uk/7-board-games-that-can-help-develop-important-life-skills/>