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## Fun Family Traditions

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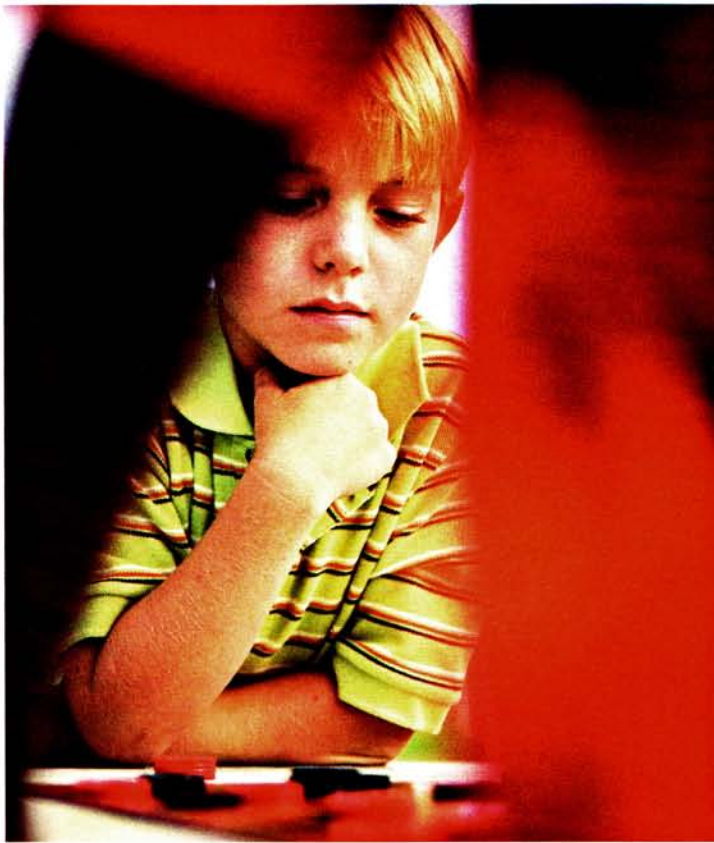
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## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

# New Year's Game Night

One of America's most popular family traditions is to play board games through the night with family and friends as you await the celebration at the stroke of twelve. And what better way is there to celebrate the New Year's arrival than having fun with family and close friends? *By Lisa Washburn*

**P**LAYING GAMES TOGETHER has multiple benefits. It strengthens family bonds, helps build children's social awareness, and provides an opportunity for family members to solve problems together. And as far as leisure activities go, it's much more constructive than vegging in front of the television set. So, turn this New Year's, and many evenings throughout

the coming year, into learning and laughing with family game nights.

### Fun Family Games

Though your kids may not believe it, there is more to games than just having fun. Games also teach learning and social skills. Before choosing which game to play, consider what it has to offer. Will it teach

**“Games are much more constructive than vegging in front of a television set.”**

turn-taking? Money skills? Courtesy? The following classic games will help your kids learn and develop and have fun at the same time.

#### Ages 3-5:

**Bingo** – shapes and colors  
Teaches children to match shapes and colors.

**Candy Land** – following rules  
Teaches turn-taking, playing by the rules, and color recognition as children try to get their game piece from one end of Candy Land to the other.

**Hi Ho Cherry-O** – counting  
Putting cherries on the trees in this game teaches children counting. Simple math skills are also taught as birds, dogs, and bucket spills deplete players' cherry supply.

**Memory** – remembering  
Kids can test their short-term memory abilities as they peek at picture cards and then try to find their matches.

## Where did all those games come from?

We have many decades to thank for the closet full of games we enjoy today. Take a look at this timeline and find the year when your favorite game made its first public appearance.

#### 1900s

Tiddley Winks, Rook

#### 1930s

Sorry!, Monopoly

#### 1940s

Chutes and Ladders, Scrabble, Clue, Candy Land

#### 1950s

Yahtzee, Risk

#### 1960s

Life, Stratego, Mouse Trap, Barrel of Monkeys, Operation, Trouble, Twister, Battleship

#### 1970s

Boggle, Connect Four, Payday

#### 1980s

Trivial Pursuit, Pictionary, Jenga, Scattergories

#### 1990s

Taboo, Guesstures, Bop It

#### 2000s

Silly 6 Pins, Wheels on the Bus Game, Bulls-Eye Ball



#### Ages 6-8:

#### Sorry – courtesy

What sets this game apart from other competitive board games is that it teaches courtesy! Children learn to say “sorry” when they bump another player back

## LDS LIVING'S PICK

### Walk the Dogs (by SimplyFun)

This game is fun, new, and simple to learn. Players draw cards and collect toy dogs to place in a row in front of them.

Once a dog is placed in the line it stays there! Without rearranging their line, players must try to get the most of one breed, or, even better, get five of the same breed in a row. But beware of the cunning dog catcher!



to "start" as players race to get their game pieces home.

### Trouble – turn-taking

Rolling the dice has never been more fun than with Trouble's "popomatic" dice roller! This board game teaches children to take turns and be persistent, and to enjoy both the wins and the losses.

### Chinese Checkers – spatial strategies

This unique three-player game teaches children spatial visualization. Players must learn to align their own marble pieces as well as utilize others' so they can make a path to jump the pieces home.

### Ages 8-10:

#### Clue – reasoning

This exciting mystery game teaches principles of deductive reasoning and logic as players eliminate possible weapons, rooms, and people who could have committed the crime. Good for player interaction, and, if played in teams, for cooperative reasoning.

#### Battle Ship – probability

Children will enjoy guessing where you've hidden your ships, and will gain substantial practice at reading grid coordinates.

### Monopoly – money skills

For your little entrepreneurs, this is the ultimate family game. Children practice counting money and learn to spend it wisely to gain the greatest possible economic advantage. They also learn how to negotiate with other players to make mutually beneficial property transactions.

### Bringing Down the House (by SimplyFun) – cooperation

This new game gets players racing to see whose team will be the first to build their home. One partner rolls while the other builds, and the first team to ring the bell and shout "Done!" wins.

### Ages 10 and up:

#### Pictionary – teamwork, creativity

Players learn that you don't have to be Van Gogh to get your point across! Creativity is used as team members draw pictures for each other to represent words or phrases.

### Risk – probability and choice

The ultimate game in military strategy, both probability and choice combine to influence the outcome of each move as players work to take over continents and, eventually, the world. Players must learn to find a balance between risk-taking and exercising caution to keep their empires expanding.

### Settlers of Catan – handling resources

This game requires strategic planning and wise use of resources as players compete to establish the largest island settlement. Try playing "Settlers of Zarahemla" for a Latter-day Saint twist. ■

