

# Patch's Toy Chest

## Camping Games

What's a camper to do after a long, fun-filled day at the campgrounds, to wind down and enjoy family time before it's time to hit the sleeping bags? Try playing a board game, dice game or cards!

There are so many great things about games. Games are affordable—you can generally find board games for under \$25, and dice and card games are even less. In most cities, a family of four couldn't get into a water park or movie theater for \$25. So, for a reasonable amount of money, your family can have fun, and it's something you can use over and over again! You can even try trading and sharing with other families so your game selection grows without having to spend more. Switch with your campsite neighbor and try each other's games, or play together—the more, the merrier!

Games are also portable—you can easily tuck a game into your backpack, suitcase or purse. Board games usually come in boxes that store neatly, and dice and card games are very compact that you can fit them anywhere. If you take your RV on camping trips, it's easy to stock a cabinet or drawer with a few games! Magnetic games are also great for travel, so you can play without a bump in the road tossing your playing pieces onto the floor.

The best thing about games is the quality time they facilitate. Games encourage interaction and cooperation, which are two things that benefit families! Games also offer entertainment for the whole family, and often cause bursts of laughter from all who play. You can easily find a game that everyone will enjoy, or take turns playing everyone's favorites. You can play board games that are strictly for fun and laughter, or you can find a game that adds strategy or education—there's something for everyone! Set up a game on the floor of your tent, on the table in your cabin, out on the patio or around the campfire! Add some yummy camping snacks like roasted marshmallows or s'mores, and you have a simple, fun activity.

You can use games to fill time between activities, or to wind down at night before going to sleep. Games also provide a great way to get through rainy mornings if you'd rather stay dry. And even when you're not camping, you can enjoy a family game night or a friendly game with neighbors. So don't forget to pick up a game or two and toss it in with your camping gear when you head out on the road!

