

Patch's Toy Chest

Transitioning from Summer to School

Summer's been fun—swimming, riding bikes, playing outside, going to fairs and festivals, family vacations, and best of all—no school! It's great for kids to get a break and enjoy some time off, but school is coming 'round again, and now it's time to get ready for a shift in gears.

Getting back into the school mindset doesn't have to cause groans of protest from the kids. It can happen gradually and covertly, especially when you do it with a board or dice game! On a rainy day or in the evening when it's time to wind down, pull out a game and get the family together to play. Kids will think they are just having some indoor fun, but if you choose the right game, they can also be learning or practicing skills to get warmed up for school! Patch has plenty of educational games that are fun for kids. Check some out today!

For the Younger Crowd

Get young kids excited about books with the **Tales to Play™** games! If they loved the book, they can live the game as it comes to life with beautifully detailed characters and 3D accessories. Climb the hill with **The Little Engine That Could™**, explore the forest in **Where the Wild Things Are**, learn to share with **The Berenstain Bears®**, and collect eggs in **The Mother Goose Game!**

What's the Word?

Practice spelling and forming words while thinking on your feet with **Word Shout®** and **Stir 'em Up!®** Grab dice quickly to make words with **Word Shout®**, or use tiles to build crosswords with **Stir 'em Up!®** Play the popular **Buzzword®** and compete in teams to decipher clues to form answers containing the Buzzword, or think fast to spit out answers to questions in the award-winning **5 Second Rule®**—the questions aren't difficult, but answering in time may be!

Strategy or Risky Business

Roll the dice to score the most points in **Farkle**, but be careful not to get a farkle and lose your points! Adding up the points also hones math skills! Play the new **Farkle Frenzy™** where everyone rolls at the same time and races to the top of the tower! Another new game, **Swivel™**, features secret colors and sneaky wild tokens—be the first to get four in a row, but it may not be so easy with a board that swivels! You can also play the dice game **Toss Up!®** to test your luck and strategy skills. Roll the colored dice, hoping for greens so you can keep rolling and racking up points. But watch out for the red dice—they'll wipe out your points!



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Trivia Time

Playing a trivia-style game can be fun—you never know what type of question you will have to answer. It could be easy, or it could be a challenge! Play **Know It or Blow It™** and work in teams to score points by giving as many correct answers to the questions as you can. **Are You Smarter Than A 5th Grader?®** is a fun and competitive game based on the new syndicated TV show. Use your cheats to help get past the tough questions, but don't use them up too soon!

Social Butterfly Training

Some kids tend to be on the shy side, and that's ok. But to help them feel more comfortable and break out of their shell a bit, try playing the new **100 Wacky Things™!** It's a silly, fun game for everyone, and once shy kids start playing, they get silly, too! Wear the funny props, walk like a gorilla, do the hula dance...just make sure you do whatever wacky things are on the cards you draw!

No matter what board or dice games you play, just playing together will bring the family closer and help kids with sportsmanship, social skills and problem-solving abilities. The benefits of playing board games are numerous, and the fun to be had is priceless. Try squeezing in a game here and there before school starts, and keep it up as a fun tradition even once classes are underway. Kids will think it's just fun, but you'll know it's much more than that!

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