FREE PARENT RESOURCE · MIDDLE SCHOOL +

Literacy Board Games for Middle School +

Twelve games that build vocabulary, spelling, creativity, grammar, and collaboration around the family table.

VOCABULARY SPELLING CREATIVITY GRAMMAR COLLABORATION

A NOTE FOR PARENTS

Middle schoolers often resist anything that looks like extra homework. A good game sidesteps that. When a child is racing to finish a word grid or searching for the perfect clue, they are practising spelling, word meaning, and quick reasoning without being asked to.

The games in this guide are grouped by the skill they build most. Choose one, play it often, and talk about the words that come up along the way.

01
Vocabulary and Spelling
Games 1–4

02
Creativity and Imagination
Games 5–7

03
Quick Thinking, Grammar, and Collaboration
Games 8–12

AT A GLANCE

Which Game Builds What

A quick reference drawn from the descriptions in this guide. Use it to match a game to the skill your child is working on.

GAME	VOCABULARY	SPELLING	CREATIVITY	GRAMMAR	TEAMWORK
1 Bananagrams	●	●	○	○	○
2 Scrabble	●	●	○	○	○
3 Quiddler	●	●	○	○	○
4 Blurt!	●	○	○	○	○
5 Rory's Story Cubes	○	○	●	○	○
6 Codenames	●	○	●	○	●
7 Paperback	○	●	●	○	○
8 Word on the Street	○	●	●	○	●
9 Scattergories	●	○	●	○	○
10 Taboo	●	○	●	○	●
11 Mad Libs	○	○	●	●	○
12 Grammar Bingo	○	○	○	●	○

● Main focus ○ Not a main focus

01 VOCABULARY + SPELLING

Games That Enhance Vocabulary and Spelling

These games focus on improving word recognition, vocabulary, and spelling skills, making learning fun and interactive.

1 Bananagrams

A fast-paced word game where players create crossword-style word grids using letter tiles. It's a perfect mix of competition and vocabulary practice, encouraging quick thinking and word-building.

ASK AFTER *Which word in your grid are you proudest of, and why?*

2 Scrabble

The classic word-building game where players score points by strategically forming words on the board. It helps students expand their vocabulary while sharpening strategic thinking and spelling.

ASK AFTER *Was there a word you wanted to play but couldn't spell? Let's look it up.*

3 Quiddler

A card game that challenges players to form words using letter cards. It's great for building vocabulary and word recognition, with a focus on both short and long words.

ASK AFTER *What is the longest word you could have made with your last hand?*

4 Blurt!

A fast-paced game where players shout out words based on definitions. It's perfect for boosting vocabulary recall and comprehension in a fun and competitive setting.

ASK AFTER *Which definition was hardest? Can you write a clearer one?*

02 CREATIVITY + IMAGINATION

Games That Spark Creativity and Boost Imagination

These games inspire creativity by encouraging storytelling, imaginative thinking, and narrative-building skills.

5 Rory's Story Cubes

A storytelling game that uses dice with picture icons. Players roll the dice and create a story based on the images, fostering creativity, reading comprehension, and imaginative thinking.

ASK AFTER *If your story were a book, what would the title be?*

6 Codenames

A word association game where players give and interpret clues to identify hidden "agents" on the board. It's a perfect game for critical thinking, vocabulary building, and creativity.

ASK AFTER *Walk me through your best clue. How did you think of it?*

7 Paperback

A deck-building game where players use letter cards to form words and earn points. It combines word-building with strategic gameplay, fueling creativity while challenging players to think critically.

ASK AFTER *What made you choose the cards you added to your deck?*

03 GRAMMAR + TEAMWORK

Games That Promote Quick Thinking, Grammar, and Collaboration

These games encourage teamwork, quick decision-making, grammar practice, and problem-solving through engaging word challenges.

8 Word on the Street

A team-based game where players brainstorm words in specific categories to "capture" letter tiles and move them to their side. It's great for enhancing spelling, teamwork, and creative thinking under time pressure.

ASK AFTER *How did your team decide on an answer when you disagreed?*

9 Scattergories

A timed word game where players come up with words in specific categories starting with a given letter. It's perfect for developing vocabulary, brainstorming skills, and quick thinking.

ASK AFTER *Which answer was the most original at the table?*

10 Taboo

Players give clues to describe a word without using certain "taboo" words, while others try to guess it. This game enhances word comprehension, creativity, and communication skills while fostering collaboration.

ASK AFTER *What is another way you could have described that word?*

11 Mad Libs

A hilarious fill-in-the-blank game where players provide specific parts of speech (like nouns, verbs, or adjectives) to complete a story. It's a fun way to learn grammar while boosting creativity and humor.

ASK AFTER *Can you swap one adjective to make the story even funnier?*

12 Grammar Bingo

Players are given bingo cards with parts of speech (like noun, verb, adjective) in the squares. The caller announces a word, and players have to match it to the correct part of speech on their card. It's engaging and great for reinforcing grammar concepts.

ASK AFTER *Which part of speech was trickiest to spot?*

04 FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Making It a Habit

The benefit comes from repetition. A short, regular game night does more than an occasional long one.

1

Pick one game for the week

Familiar rules free your child to focus on the words, not the instructions.

2

Keep it to 20–30 minutes

End while it is still fun, so they want to play again.

3

Talk about the words

Pause on an unusual word. What does it mean? Where else have you heard it?

4

Keep a family word list

Write down new words as they come up. Use the log on the next page.

LET THEM LEAD

Once a game is familiar, ask your child to explain the rules to a younger sibling or a guest. Teaching a game is its own lesson in clear communication.

PRINTABLE

Our Game Night Log

Record each game night and the new words your family discovered.

DATE	GAME	NEW WORDS WE LEARNED

These games offer an enjoyable blend of education and entertainment, helping middle school students improve their reading, language, and grammar skills while having fun!

Connect with us to find the best literacy program for your child.

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www.thelearnerspathway.com