Make Your Own Board Game

Design, create, play! Everyone loves board games, now you can make your very own to play with your family and friends! What type of game will you create? A game where you work together? A game where you answer questions? A game where you explore a new world? The possibilities are endless! Once you design your game, test it out by playing it!

Materials:
- Sturdy piece of cardboard or other sturdy, flat material
- Paper and pencil to record the rules
- Drawing utensils to decorate your board
- Small objects to use as game pieces
- Business card sized pieces of paper (if you are using cards in your game)
- Dice or some other way to determine how many moves you take

Steps:
1. Think of a theme for your game. If you aren't sure of a theme, think of some of your favorite things and base it off of them
2. Make your game's rules. They can be based off of a game you have played before or something entirely new! They're completely up to you and you can change them as the game goes on (it's your game after all)! Here are a few ideas:
   a. A trivia game: Choose 3-5 different colors for your path and make game cards that correspond with each color. For example, if a player lands on red, they have to answer a trivia question on a red card. If they get it wrong, they have to move back one space. Each color can be a different trivia category.
   b. An action game: If a player lands on a certain space, they have to do some kind of action that is written on the card they draw, such as a silly dance.
   c. A narrative style adventure game: Make a game where players travel through an imaginary land of your choice to get to the hidden treasure, defeat a monster, or escape a forest.

     d.   A collaborative game: Instead of playing against each other, everyone is working together!

3. Decorate your board- use markers or anything else you might want to create the game's path and. Get creative with the layout of your path and try to make it reflect the theme you chose.

4. Create your game cards. Make sure you have enough to last the whole game.

5. Test it! Have fun playing through your game! If something doesn't work out, that is okay! Game developers have to redesign and test their game many times before they call it done.

6. Re-design: Reflect on your play through. Did you have fun playing? Did everything work as you intended? Do you have any new ideas for things you can add or change to make the game even better?

7. Re-test (optional): Now that you have tweaked your game, play it again!

8. Remember: There's no right or wrong board game! This is your game, have fun designing, testing, and redesigning your game!

Caregiver Tip:

Try asking your learner some open-ended questions to get their ideas flowing about new additions they can make to their game. What was your favorite part of your game? What was your least favorite part of your game? Did everything work like you wanted it to? What can you add to it?

Making a new game isn't easy. In fact, professional game makers do not even make games that work well on their first try. If your child's game didn't work as they intended, that's okay, give your child some encouragement! Most things that scientists, engineers, and designers make- from medicine, to new technology, to games- take many tries to get right. Each time it doesn't work properly, instead of feeling bad, these designers feel like they learned something new. Try framing this game making process in this design framework to stay positive!