

## Make Your Own Reading/Educational Board Game

### **You will need:**

- Cardboard (A4 or A3 thin card is fine, preferably coloured)- 2 or more sheets
- Printer (or pens to draw own board ); Pen to write title and word cards
- Small picture stickers to fit in spaces on board
- Laminator/laminating pouches (or clear plastic sheet protector) - optional
- A die (dice ) or spinner and some small tokens or “movers” ( e.g. odd buttons, counters, shells, tiny toys/erasers, little pieces of thick card or plastic with different coloured dots/patterns on each).

### **Instructions:**

You can print off one of the blank game boards here, or make up your own.

Put picture stickers in some of the spaces (use the spaces with dotted edges, or choose your picture spaces). Write in any extra “direction” spaces, e.g. Extra Turn. Make sure there is a blank space just after a picture space/”go on 1” or just before “go back one” etc.

Make up a title for the game (you can match the theme of the stickers, e.g. Animal Fun, ...Adventure). Write the title at the top. Work out the rules for the game, and write them on the back or on a separate page.

If you want, you can decorate the board with coloured pens or pencils, extra stickers, glitter etc. Laminating the board (or covering it with clear contact plastic) will make it more attractive and durable. You could also put it in a plastic protective sleeve.

Print off the blank word cards sheet onto thin A4 card and cut out, or cut up some card to make your own cards. Write words on the cards, using pencil, biro or grey/coloured felt pen (but make sure the words don't show through on the other side). If you use pencil, you can change the words as your child learns them.

You can use words for the cards that your child needs to learn for school or has trouble remembering, or look online for a “100/200/300 Most Commonly / Frequently Used Words list” and pick some of those at your child's level. If you have children of different ages, you could make a different set for each child to use as they play the game.

It's great to involve your child in creating the game, and this may lead to you inventing new board games with different themes, layouts, instructions/rules etc. You may want to draw pictures on the board rather than use stickers. Use larger sheets of card if you like. You could make cards with maths problems or quiz questions on them. I use A4 card and stickers/clipart as I can laminate them and lend them to my reading students, but you can use any media or themes that work for you.