

About Parenting Education LOTTO

NOTE: You will need the templates for six blank game boards, the six filled-in game boards to be cut into the cards, and instructions for participants. Do not cut up the templates! They are meant to be copied many times. Read the complete instructions before starting.

What is the purpose of Parenting Education LOTTO?

This game provides a combined kinesthetic and peer learning experience for students of parenting education. The game is based on knowledge and behaviors that, research shows, improve family functioning and outcomes for children:

- Child development
- Authoritative parenting
- Nurturing close relationships
- Behavior management
- Problem solving
- Parents as first teachers.

This game is intended for use by groups of three to six people.

Learning objectives

The learner will:

- Demonstrate greater knowledge of six major content areas of parenting education.
- Gain greater familiarity with specific ideas related to each content area
- Have greater awareness of the breadth of parenting knowledge and skills that contribute to greater parenting effectiveness
- Verbalize ideas relevant to important parenting knowledge and behaviors in a small group setting
- Learn new ideas and approaches from his or her peers relevant to important areas of parenting knowledge and behaviors

Who is the game for?

The game was developed for use in training and educating parenting educators, family support workers, childhood care and education teachers, faith-based family educators, college students, high school students, and others who are learning about important parenting knowledge and behaviors. It is meant to be used after the learners have an appropriate amount of knowledge or training in the six content areas the game covers. This ensures that the learner will be able to achieve a reasonable amount of success in playing the game.

Steps in playing Parenting Education LOTTO

Preparations

1. Using card stock, make copies of the game boards, game card sheets, and instruction card sheet. Game boards should be one color, and the game card sheets a different color. Save the templates for future use.
2. Cut up the game card sheets to make 48 different cards (including wild cards). Store game cards with the six game boards and one instruction card in one of the envelopes provided. This makes a complete set for one small group.
3. Make enough complete sets for the number of small groups (each comprising three to six people) you expect to play the game. Seven envelopes are included with the kit. Copy the game card templates on regular paper to make the "key" sheets to distribute to players as they near completion of the game.

Playing the game

1. Review the knowledge areas covered by the game. Participants will need to understand, in general, to which aspects of parenting each game board title refers.
2. Structure the small groups of three to six people. Consider ways to distribute the more knowledgeable participants so that there is at least one in each of the small groups. Peer learning works best when knowledgeable people are in each group.
3. Distribute one game set to each small group, asking them to pull out the pieces and instruction card.
4. Explain how the game is played, going over the items listed on the instruction card.
5. Tell the participants how much time they will have to play and that they will have time to discuss the experience afterwards.
6. Be available to help groups as they ask for it, and encourage groups to shout "Lotto!" when they fill a game board
7. When a group has filled at least three game boards, or as time constraints require, distribute the key sheet copies to each group. Allow 5 to 10 minutes for participants to compare their answers with those shown on the key sheets and to arrange the rest of their cards.

Conclusion and debriefing

1. Call the game to an end after giving a 2-minute warning.
2. Inform participants that their answers may differ from those shown on the key sheets. The key sheets show only one of many "right ways" to distribute the game cards, just as there are many right ways to parent.
3. Ask the groups what they came up with for the wild cards for each of the content areas.
4. Ask participants if they have any questions about the ideas listed on the game cards, or if they had any disagreements with the arrangements shown on the key sheets.
5. Accept participants' comments and discuss them together. They are learning opportunities for the entire group. There is no need to defend the answers shown in the game.

Where to send feedback

We would be very grateful for any feedback on how this game worked for you and any suggestions you have about improvements or new ways to use it.

Send feedback to: Parenting Research
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