

Match 3 Game Instructions

Ages 1-6

Materials Needed:

3—Thin paper plates
1 yard of cord
Clear tape
Crayons (optional)

Instructions:

1. If the child chooses to color the paper plates, do so before beginning to make the game. Colors may be placed randomly or each plate can be a specific color.
2. Fold one paper plate in half. Unfold.
3. Turn the paper plate 1/4 turn (90 degrees) so that the line of the first fold lies exactly over itself when the plate is folded in half again.
4. Fold the paper plate in half. A cross (intersecting lines) will be formed with the two fold lines.
5. Keep the paper plate folded in half. Fold each side of the plate down to meet the fold line. This will make the plate in 4 parts. Unfold the CENTER FOLD ONLY.
6. Fold the plate with sides folded over along the crease made with the first fold.
7. Curve the ends opposite the fold inward.
8. Overlap the curved ends. Tape them together with clear tape. You should have the plate with a finely creased end with the fold and rounded end where the ends are taped together.
9. Repeat steps 1-8 for 2 more plates.
10. String the 3 plate pieces onto the yard of cord.
11. To play the game, move the cord with plate pieces up and down to make the pieces move around the cord.
12. Now identify which of the plate pieces are hanging on the string in the same way (on the folded end which is more pointed or on the curved end).
13. The goal is to get all three pieces hanging on the cord in the same way, but the learning happens each time when the child identifies which pieces match.

Project Expanded into Additional Subjects:

1. Math: Counting each of the plate pieces. More pieces can be made to play another game of counting how many are on the cord at one time.
2. Math: Fractions of 1/2 and 1/4 as the plate pieces are folded. Take time to open it all the way to see the number of divisions made by the folds.
3. Art: Each piece can be colored a different color to encourage naming colors as well as identifying the match.
4. Literature: Stories related to matching items, colors, counting.