iPrompts

Hand Hold Adaptive
Reviewed by Dave Gerardi

Autism? There's an app for that. Available for download on the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch, iPrompts is a picture-based prompt system that is both affordable and portable. Parents can create schedules, select choice prompts and even develop social stories. The stock art that comes with the app is limited, but you can upload your own photos. Even better, an upcoming upgrade will give users the ability to use images from Google's search index. There are also plans for an audio reinforcement upgrade.
iPrompts.com

Settlers of Catan

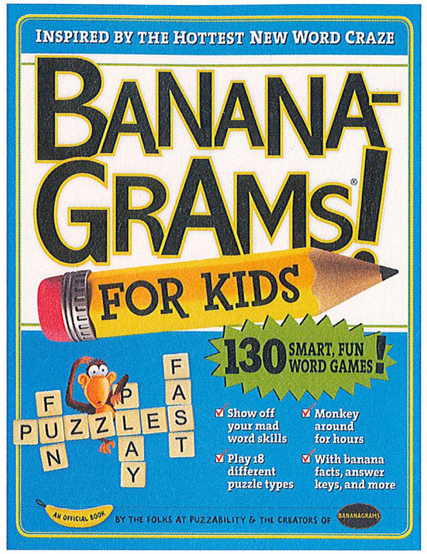
Mayfair Games
Reviewed by Dave Gerardi

Settlers of Catan has become something of a modern classic amongst board-gamers. The rules are simple once you play a round or two. Luck is balanced by strategy. Most importantly, each player interacts frequently with the others. There is very little "sitting around waiting for your turn." A lot of the game revolves around collecting, trading and exchanging resource cards (wood, stone, grain, etc.), so it builds pattern recognition, reinforces math skills and teaches some basic economics—hopefully while having fun first and foremost. There are a lot of expansions, so start with the basic game. I recommend playing with four players.
MayfairGames.com

Pairs in Pears

Bananagrams
Reviewed by Dave Gerardi

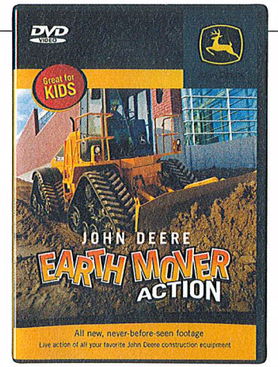
A new game from the makers of Bananagrams, Pairs in Pears is another simple yet engaging word game in which players compete to create pairs of words from their letter pile. The game comes with 104 letters (four complete alphabets) so lots of alternate play possibilities are available. For easier challenges, create phonic sounds and build 3-letter words. When game time is over, all the tiles fit neatly in a cute pair-shaped bag.
Bananagrams-intl.com



Bananagrams! For Kids

Workman Publishing
Reviewed by Dave Gerardi

Based on the popular Scrabble-like anagram game, the new *Bananagrams! For Kids* book is a collection of 130 word games for building vocabulary and problem solving skills. What's great about this book that I wish all similar books would copy is that each puzzle is ranked by difficulty (one banana to four bananas, naturally). There's also an answer key in back for parents whose brains are too fried after work to solve more puzzles.
Workman.com



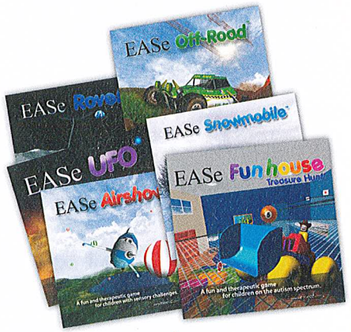
John Deere Earth Mover Action

TM Books Video
Reviewed by Dave Gerardi

Construction vehicle videos are a dime a dozen, but *John Deere Earth Mover Action* is a cut above because it explains what each vehicle does and how it works. Naturally, it doesn't skimp on footage of huge dozers pushing mountains of dirt. Stop motion video of toy trucks moving candy and marshmallows is a fun change of pace. Yeah, it's a bit of a John Deere commercial, but the educational bits about the purpose of the different vehicles and their working parts is worth it. Dozers, backhoes, graders and more are featured
Tmbv.com

EASe Games

Sensory therapeutic PC video games for children with autism



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