

Games That Teach Diagonals

Many children have difficulty drawing diagonal lines. This can make it hard to make shapes like a triangle, diamond or star, or letters like K, M, N, R, V, W, X, Y, Z etc. Practicing diagonals through games can visually reinforce the concept and help develop the motor memory for diagonal pencil strokes. For the activities listed below, make sure that the child doesn't turn the paper or game board or their body in order to avoid making the diagonal! You can try taping the paper down if needed.

Activities:

1. Play checkers together after teaching the child how the pieces move diagonally and how to jump the other player's checkers.
2. Play the Connect Four game together, teaching the child how to place four markers in a row or on a diagonal within the vertical game frame.
3. Play Bingo – teaching the child what the goal of Bingo is – five markers straight across, up/down or on a diagonal.
4. Tic-Tac-Toe – this can be done on paper or using fine-motor manipulatives such as beans, cheerios, checker pieces, or marshmallows.
5. Chess – this game can be used for the more mature child who understands the concept of the game.
6. Chinese Checkers.
7. Complete word search activities.
8. Dot-to-dots.
9. Mazes.