

Are we there yet? Interactive Games for Your Family

Just Imagine Suggest an “imagine” notion to your children and then discuss the possibilities.

For example: “Imagine that we were traveling to Disneyland by motorcycle.”
“Imagine we were traveling to Chicago by covered wagon.” “Imagine we were traveling to New York one hundred years from now.”

Questions the child should consider answering are things like:

- How long would the trip take?
- How many times would you have to stop to feed and water the horses, refuel our rocket?
- What would happen if we were in a bad storm?
- What would you eat?
- What supplies would we need?

Your imaginations are your only limitations!



Geography Each player comes up with a place name (town, state, country, etc.) that begins with the same letter as the last letter of the place the previous player mentioned.

Example: Player 1 says California. Player 2 has to name a place that begins with an A, like Anaheim. Player 3 might pick Mexico. Keep going for as long as you can name a new place.

You can limit the choices to states or countries or cities or landmarks to make the game more challenging for older kids.

Ghost (the word version of Horse) One player names a letter of the alphabet. Each player takes a turn adding a letter that contributes to the spelling of a word. You can challenge a player if you don't believe the letter he added is part of a real word.

Players want to avoid completing a word. Each time a player completes a word, he gets another of the letters in the word ghost. Once a player has all five letters, he's out of the game.

Example: Player 1 starts with the letter C. Player 2 adds H. Player 3 adds A. Player 4, thinking about the word chart, adds R. However the char is a word so the fourth player would get a G for ghost, but stay in the game (for at least four more rounds).



Prediction. Have each kid make a prediction. For example, “We will see 17 cows on the way to Grandma’s house” or “We will see seven BMWs on the way to Kansas City”. Basically, the kids just pick something to keep track of and count. It is easy to cheat at this game so Mom or Dad will need to be the referee (so what else is new?).

Eating an Alphabet About 30 minutes before your next meal break, distract your hungry brook with this game. First player says, “I’m so hungry I could eat an alligator (or any other “A” word). The second player adds, “I’m so hungry I could eat an alligator and a banana.” The next player says, “I’m so hungry I could eat an alligator, a banana and a crocodile.” The game ends when you reach “Z”!

Car Scavenger Hunt Ask your kids to write or draw pictures of things they might see on a trip. Pass out 10 or 15 cards to each player and have them search for the items on the cards. The first player to find all of the items wins the scavenger hunt.

Color Safari Each child picks a color (each player must choose a different color). Then the first player to find 10, 20, 50 or 100 items of that color wins the game.

Highway Instagram Using a large drawing tablet and thick, black markers, kids make signs to send messages to other cars, such as “Do you have any gray poupin?” or “If you like peanut butter, honk your horn!”

Invent a Better Plane (or house or dog or pizza) *Discuss* fanciful ways to improve something! For example, a plane might be better with a dining room and “airplane stops” in the sky.

Mental Math Watch for numbers on signs along the road. With young kids just add or subtract two numbers. With older kids, add the first two numbers subtract the third and multiply by the fourth. Each round is played separately, but everyone looks for numbers. The winner of each round determines the next “math” round. Winner is the person with the largest number after all have had a chance. Parents may need their calculators for this one!



Name That Tune Player one hums a tune and the others try to guess what it is. Winner gets to hum the next tune.

Semi Search Each player selects a color. The first to see 10 big rigs in their color wins. If a truck in your color honks at you, you automatically win.

States Print out a copy of [a map of the USA](#) (or [other map](#)) for each player. Leave your own state white. Have the kids color the states that border your state yellow (or the state that you are traveling in), the states the border those states blue, the next out red, the next orange, and all the rest green.

Look for cars with out-of-state license plates. The scoring goes as follows:

- 1 pt – Yellow
- 2 pt – Blue
- 4 pt – Red
- 6 pt – Orange
- 8 pt – Green

Hawaii and Alaska are 10 points, unless you live there. Hawaiians and Alaskans get 10 points for Florida and Maine.

Only the first person to spot an out of state license plate gets the points for that sighting. They must find a license from another state before they can get any more points from the state they just found.

You can decide when the game ends ahead of time. Set a time limit and whoever has the most by then wins, or set a point limit, and the winner is first to get that many points, or as soon as one person has 10 sightings, scores are added, and highest score is the winner.

