**Board Games from Children’s Literature**

Children’s literature has been widely described as a tool to provide hands-on opportunities to apply math concepts and skills (Conaway & Bostick Midkiff 1994); Whitin & Gary 1994; Smith 1995; Kolstad, Briggs, & Whalen 1996; Moyer 2000).

Integrating mathematics and literacy creates an interweaving of curriculum rather than a compartmentalizing of academic subjects.

Many children’s books provide a natural, meaningful path for exploring and exchanging ideas about math concepts.

Also, as children often read favorite books again and again, if a math activity is based on a familiar storyline, the math experience can be recalled as the book is being read, providing a powerful mental connection for remembering concepts and skills (Moyer 2000).

**Making Board Games**

1. Select a book based on math concepts children are ready to learn or for the book’s story line or content.
2. Determine the target players’ ages or developmental levels.
3. Select the style or type of game (lotto and short path games are best for young children).
4. Create your game. Make it flexible. Some games can grow with the children or be used with various age groups by adding simple things like different spinners or cards. If possible, include features that help children learn more than one concept while playing.
5. Be sure to laminate or make your pieces sturdy for repeated use.