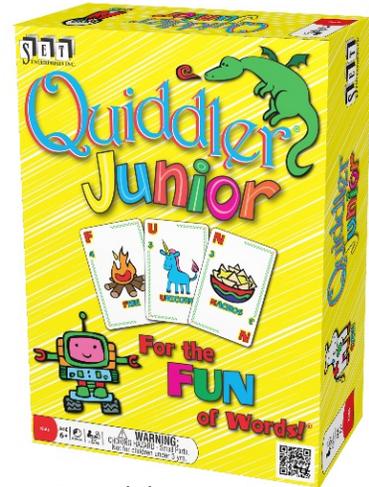


Quiddler Junior OT Skill Connections

Quiddler Junior is a game mainly played for fun and entertainment. The fact that it teaches, strengthens and exercises an abundance of skills makes it one of the best possible tools for Occupational Therapy. Because it is fundamentally a game people enjoy, Quiddler Junior inspires an intrinsic motivation and desire to “play”. The repetition of playing again and again encourages progress and success.

Quiddler Junior Strengthens

- Cognitive Development
- Visual Perception
- Physical Development
- Social Development
- Emotional Development



Ages: 6 to adult

Players: 2 to 6

About Quiddler Junior

Playing Quiddler Junior is so much fun, players won't even notice they're learning! Quiddler Junior contains 103 unique playing cards and 96 point chips in increments of 1, 5 and 10 points for fun and simple scoring. Each card contains a letter or double letter, point value, a word, and a colorful illustration. The goal is to have the highest score at the end of six rounds. Each round, players arrange all their cards into one or more words. The first player to do so goes out, then all other players have one last turn to make their best words. The number of cards dealt increases each round offering a greater variety of word choices. Players can use a dictionary when it is not their turn to look up words or check their spelling. This encourages players to use their harder-to-play-but-higher-point letters and find words that will earn them the 5-point longest-word bonus!

How Quiddler Junior Develops Skills

Cognitive Development:

- **Analytical Skills & Critical Thinking:** During the game, players continually analyze and evaluate their cards to find the best possible word combinations. They also analyze the advantages and disadvantages of:
 - drawing an unknown letter from the top of the deck or picking up a known letter from the discard pile,
 - going out quickly or trying to build higher-point words,
 - discarding or keeping a high value but hard to use letter.

Players continually analyze and make these types of decisions throughout the game.

- **Attention:** When playing Quiddler Junior, players are continually focused on their cards, trying to make their best word(s). When it is not their turn they also search in the dictionary to find new or longer words to play. This practice is repeated during every game, which is crucial for attention development.
- **Cognitive Flexibility:** At the beginning of each turn, players draw or pick up a new card. Each new card brings an opportunity to rearrange letters, change strategy and come up with more word choices. Players quickly learn that rearranging their cards (including cards already used in a word) to use a higher-point letter or make a longer word leads to higher scores and winning the game! This intrinsically motivates players to be flexible and creative thinkers.
- **Executive Functioning:** Playing Quiddler Junior exercises and strengthens players' abilities to process and make decisions.
 - **Organization & Planning:** While playing Quiddler Junior players need to organize their cards and plan how to use them. Players decide how to organize their hands (alphabetically, by vowels then consonants, etc.) and often plan some of their words at the beginning of each round. Throughout the game, players reorganize their cards when making words and make

- new plans for their other cards, analyzing which cards are best to keep and which are best to discard each turn.
- **Strategy:** Each round, players strategize how to get the most points and win. Some players try to go out quickly and catch the other players before they have words. Some players wait to go out, trying to get higher-point cards. Some players aim for the long word bonus — or strategically rework their letters to block another player from receiving the bonus.
 - **Working Memory:** Players must remember the rules and goal of the game. Recalling previously played words benefits players allowing them to use them later in the game.
 - **Sight Words:** The compilation of letters in the Quiddler Junior deck was designed to help players learn and spell high frequency sight words. Repeatedly playing reinforces recognition and memorization of sight words.
 - **Vocabulary Development & Decoding Skills:** Players sort and group letters together recognizing commonly used prefixes and suffixes, and frequently used letter patterns. They expand their vocabularies when finding new words to play in the dictionary as well as learning from words others play.

Visual Perception:

- **Visual Perception:** Players build their abilities to see, interpret and analyze the jumble of letters they are dealt. Continually developing the visual information into words strengthens players' visual perception.
 - **Visual Memory:** Looking up words that use specific letters they have in their hands or remembering previously used words improves players' visual memory.
 - **Visual Sequential Memory:** Players practice their visual sequential memory each time they remember the sequence of letters to spell a word.

Physical Development:

- **Bilateral Coordination:** Playing Quiddler Junior enhances bilateral coordination and provides opportunities to strengthen individual skills like symmetrical integration, asymmetrical integration and crossing the midline.
 - **Symmetrical Integration:** Shuffle the cards using the *riffle* technique—where half of the deck is held in each hand with thumbs inward and the cards are released by the thumbs so that they fall to the table interleaved. This type of shuffling and using both hands to hold all the cards in the later rounds of the game improve symmetrical integration.
 - **Asymmetrical Integration:** There are many opportunities for asymmetrical integration while playing Quiddler Junior: holding the deck with one hand while dealing with the other; holding cards in one hand and using the other hand to draw, organize and discard.
 - **Crossing the Midline:** Have players hold their cards on one side of their body and spell their words one letter at a time on the other side. Requiring players to draw and discard with the hand farthest away from the draw and discard pile requires them to reach across their body and reinforces crossing the midline.
- **Fine Motor Skills:** Playing Quiddler Junior helps strengthen *in-hand manipulation*, *hand arches*, *pincer grasp* and increases overall *dexterity* and *motor planning*. Shuffling the cards, dealing cards to each player, flipping over the top card to begin the game, holding and organizing an increasing number of cards each round, drawing and discarding individual cards, and distributing point chips all build, strengthen and refine these skills.

Social Development:

- **Social Skills:** Playing Quiddler Junior provides multiple opportunities for learning and exercising proper social skills such as: *verbal and non-verbal communication*, *following instructions*, *taking turns*, *sharing*, *using appropriate words*, *self-control*, *coping with losing* and *proper behavior when winning*.

Emotional Development:

- **Confidence:** Every word a player makes increases his or her confidence. As players repeatedly play Quiddler Junior their cognitive, physical, social and emotional skills continually develop building their overall self-confidence.
- **Intrinsic Motivation:** Playing Quiddler Junior is fun so players are intrinsically motivated to play again and again. This repetition is key to developing skills. The intrinsic motivation to win triggers players' desires to learn new words and remember how to spell them so that they can use them again.
- **Mood Enhancement:** Quiddler Junior offers players a way to improve or maintain essential skills in a fun and positive way. The enjoyment of playing and the feeling of success when they earn the 5-point bonus for making the longest word naturally enhance moods. It's purposeful play that impacts each player's environment and mindset in a very positive way.
- **Self-Esteem:** Playing Quiddler Junior increases players' skills and abilities, which builds their confidence, improving their overall self-esteem. A strong, positive self-esteem directly relates to players' abilities to think and cope with challenges throughout their lives. It is the foundation of success and happiness.