



Games & Toys

Board to Distraction

Family games to help keep your festive season merry & bright

By Emily Hirschmann

There comes a time in every Christmas when boredom kicks in and fractious cracks begin to appear on the surface of even the most harmonious of family gatherings, especially when children are involved. The obvious recourse in these days of technology is to turn on the computer or stick on a DVD, but I'm a traditionalist at heart and prefer, where possible, to break out the board games. While Snakes & Ladders and Ludo are all very well, we've been looking at some of the more recent additions to the board game market that can help to reduce the friction and add some fun to any family occasion.

Sort it Out! (RRP £19.99) – One for adults and older kids, Sort it Out! is essentially a quiz about putting things – and people – in their places. The basic idea can't help but sound a little mundane – you're given a list and asked to put the items in order; shortest to tallest, slowest to fastest, fattest to thinnest, you get the gist. What stops the game from being instantly tedious is the subjects involved – where else do you get to compare Barack Obama with a kangaroo?



With questions covering entertainment, general knowledge, history, geography and the downright bizarre (what takes the longest – an adult male urinating, or the shower scene in *Psycho*?), no one player can possibly have the edge throughout the game, so the winner is generally the person with either the most logic, or the biggest mine of pointless information... Or, possibly, the greatest luck. Fast-paced and enormous fun, **Sort it Out!** proves that simplicity is often the key to quality entertainment.

Sort it Out! is available from Argos, WH Smith and www.amazon.co.uk