

Notes for *Tic Tac Total*

Level: 1-3

Recommended # of Players: 2

Materials: *Tic Tac Total* game board; 2 washable markers

Math Skills: Addition, missing addends, even and odd numbers, spatial reasoning

Mathematical benefits:

Addition: *Tic Tac Total* gives its players practice adding and subtracting. Players must consider multiple options for number placement to achieve the target number. This requires players to hold multiple addition problems in their head at once. This gives students an opportunity to practice their mental math skills. Since the target number is set at the beginning of the game, students must find multiple missing addends to achieve this number. This helps players strengthen their concept of number.

Spatial Reasoning: In order to win, each player must think about all the possible plays they have. They also must think about ways they can block their opponent. To block, a player must choose a second number in a row so that the third number in that row must be even (if they are playing even) or odd (if they are playing odd).