

Notes Concerning *Slap Jack*

Level: Beginner

Recommended # of players: 2-5

Materials: Standard playing cards (any number)

Relationships: Counting

Notes:

This is a good game for beginning card players. It requires very little skill, so that even 3-year-olds can play it. However, very impulsive and/or aggressive children may have difficulty controlling themselves when slapping the Jack, so this may not be a good game for these children.

A full deck of cards is not needed to play Slap Jack. The game can be played with leftover cards and incomplete decks.

It might be a good idea to add extra jacks, so that players have more than 4 opportunities to slap the Jack.

If children have difficulty distinguishing between Jacks and Kings, remove the Kings prior to playing.



Slap Jack

Materials: A deck of standard playing cards.

Objective: To capture the most cards.



To play:

1. Players decide who will be the dealer. The dealer shuffles the cards and then deals them face down, the same number of cards to each player. If any cards are left over, those cards are placed in the middle, and become the STACK. Players put their cards into a pile face down.
2. Players decide who will go first.
3. Players take turns flipping their top card face up onto the top of the STACK. When flipping, players must flip away from themselves so that they cannot see the card before other players.
4. If the flipped card is a jack, players try to be the first person to slap the jack.
5. The first player to slap the jack gets to take the jack and all of the cards in the STACK. When players take the STACK, they put the cards aside in a separate pile and do not use them.
6. If a player slaps a card that is not a jack, the player must give one card, face down, to the person who laid the last card.
7. The game is over when one player runs out of cards.
8. Players count all of their cards. The player with the most cards wins.