

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Giant outdoor noughts and crosses

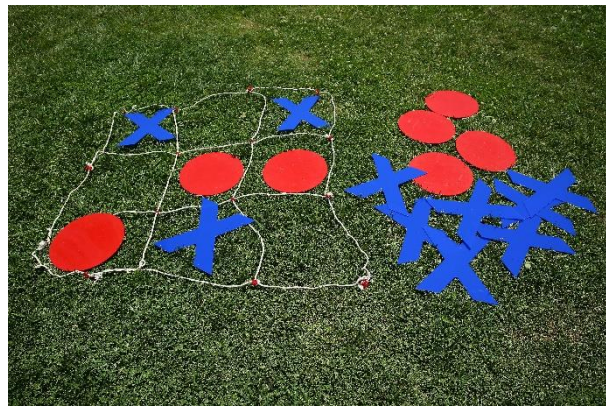
Playing games can be a great way to teach children about taking turns, rules in games and sharing resources. Use this activity to create a giant game of outdoor noughts and crosses to support children to develop key social skills.

Learning aims

- Understand rules
- Take turns fairly within a game
- Share resources
- Have fun playing games.

Resources

- 5 x A3 size noughts (laminated cards)
- 5 x A3 size crosses (laminated cards)
- Chalk or string
- Dice or coin.



Activity outline

1. Create your giant noughts and crosses cards
2. Create a giant noughts and crosses grid using either chalk on a hard surface or lengths of string on grass. Children can support with this as you discuss with them how to measure out the grid so it can fit nine cards
3. Talk to children about rules they are already familiar with and why these rules are in place, such as walking when indoors
4. Explain the rules of giant noughts and crosses to the children:
 - a. In this game only two people play at a time
 - b. Each child chooses whether to be noughts or crosses
 - c. Each child takes it in turn to place one card on the grid
 - d. The first player to get three of their symbol in row either horizontally, vertically or diagonally is the winner

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5. Show children ways in which they can decide fairly who goes first. You could roll a dice to see who gets the highest number or flip a coin. The emphasis is to show children that by applying consistent rules, such as turn taking, there is a fairness to the game
6. Model the game to children and then invite them to play. Shadow the game to observe their turn taking and sharing skills and see how children support each other to remember and adhere to the rules of the game
7. Once children are confident with how to play you can leave this in continuous provision for children to use independently.

Extension ideas

- Once children are familiar with the game you could discuss different rules with the children, such as the winner stays on and takes the first turn against a new opponent, or two new children play the game each time
- Introduce giant dice to your outdoor area to support children with turn taking in outdoor games.

NDNA products to support you with this activity

- [EYFS: Personal, Social and Emotional Development](#) – live virtual classroom training