Snakes and Ladders for Learning
Learning Disabilities Edition
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Learning Disabilities Edition

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The artists and crafters of the project team
have donated their time, creative ideas, materials and positive energy
to this project, and ultimately, to adult learners.

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Northwest Community College

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Snakes and Ladders for Learning

Learning Disabilities Edition

Game Information

Number of Players: Room-sized Version: 3 - 10 players
Smaller numbers of players (3-5) may use one die on the 10 foot by 10 foot, 36 square board. More players (6-10) may want to use two dice or a board with more squares. Your game may also have participating spectators - they should be encouraged to join the discussion and may want to be Card Readers and read the snake or ladder cards as the players land on the bottoms of the ladders or the tails of the snakes.

Materials required:
- One room-sized playing board (see Building the Playing Board)
- One or two dice
- Five or six snakes* of varying lengths (use your imagination here and recycle)
- Five or six ladders* of varying lengths (use your imagination here and recycle)
- One set of jumbo Ladder Cards (photocopy or access digitally for printing)
- One set of jumbo Snake Cards (photocopy or access digitally for printing)

Variations: Table-top Version: 2-5 players
Materials are available digitally to print out your own version of the playing board, complete with mobile snakes and ladders. Snakes and ladders can also be drawn on the printed board. Two sets of table top playing cards, one snakes and one ladders, are also included for printing. Blank cards are also available for participants to create their own deck of learning cards.

Game Set Up
1. Find a playing space of suitable size for the board. Set up the board with the snakes and ladders distributed evenly across and up and down the board.
2. Explain the game to the players. Read the Rules for Play to the participants.
3. Decide together if you will use one die or two dice - depending on time and numbers.
4. Arrange for an order of players and remember your order.
5. Begin play.

*The Snakes and Ladders are purposely left "floating". Each time you play the game you can place the snakes and ladders in different positions.
Rules for Play

Purpose: To open a conversation about the ups (ladders) and downs (snakes) of learning and learning disabilities.

How to Play

Using the room-size playing board, each player moves across the board as their playing piece. Roll the die/dice to determine the number of squares the player will move.

- If a player lands on a square containing the bottom of a ladder, the player draws a ladder card, reads it to the other players, and moves up to the square at the top of the ladder. Discussion is encouraged. (Alternately, a Ladder Card Reader role may be given to one of the non-playing spectators.)
- If a player lands on a square containing the tail-end of a snake, the player draws a snake card, reads it to the other players, and moves down the snake to the square containing the head of the snake. (Alternately: Snake Card Reader)
- Each snake card has a "Crossroads" reminder. After reading the snake card, the player is encouraged to contribute ideas related to crossroads, ways that one can keep from slipping down this same snake again and again. How can we change our learning to prevent repeating these snakes? Again, discussion from all is encouraged. If the group feels the crossroads solution is viable, and can offer suggestions, they can reduce the snake slide by any number of squares they choose.
- Blank cards are available in each deck for you to add your own snakes and ladders for learning.

The Goal

You may think the goal is to get to Square 36 first. Not necessarily so. The goal is to learn the most from your fellow players and the game itself. The goal is to not rush the process. Enjoy the ladders. Learn from the snakes. Appreciate how seemingly inconsequential actions made by learners, teachers and others may create learning ladders or learning snakes for yourself and others.

Explore the conversations. The first player to have the first "aha" is the first winner. Hopefully, other winners will follow. The final player to arrive at Square 36 completes the game. However, the conversations can continue...

Play, talk, learn, laugh.
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Resources

Building the Snakes and Ladders

Both the snakes and ladders can be easily created from materials at hand. They do not need to be fancy. During one prototype demonstration, participants removed their scarves and used them for snakes. Ladders can be cut from material, newspaper, or created from new materials. For the table top board, snakes and ladders can be cut from paper or cardboard and coloured.

Die / Dice

The team had the brilliant idea of building a large die for playing the room-sized game that would be reversible, have rigid inserts and double as a carrying case. A few prototypes were built and dismissed as too big or too fuzzy (picking up dirt too readily). A very creative die carrycase was built complete with balloon supports. We chose, in the end, to go ahead with hygienically sound, oversized purchased dice when travelling.

Photos of the game building process
Snakes and Ladders for Learning
Resources
Building the Playing Board

Materials:
- 2 flat queen-sized sheets
- 40 yards of 1" webbing
- Thread for seams
- Glue—optional
- Fabric paint

Tools:
- Chalk line—optional
- Ruler or measuring tape
- Sewing machine

1. Wash and dry the sheets. Then follow these directions to measure, cut and sew a room-sized playing board 120" x 120".
2. Remove the heavier top trim piece from both sheets. The sheets are now 98" x 88".
3. Measure and mark pieces to be cut on Sheet 1. Cut. All measurements allow for 1/2" seams.
4. By playing with the layout, you can end up with only the short outer edge of Piece A needing to be hemmed.
5. Sew together using French Seams. (Wrong sides together then right sides together.) A and B first, then Sheet 2 and C, then AB with Sheet 2 & C. Seams are numbered in the order to sew. Hem the short side of A.
6. The playing board should now measure 120" x 120".
7. On the good side of the board, measure out squares 20"x20" with felt pen marks. A chalk line can be used to create grid lines to either sew or glue the webbing.
8. Cut the black webbing into pieces 120" long and seal the cut ends with a heat gun.
9. Either sew or glue the webbing to the sheet along the grid lines.
10. Sew or glue webbing along outside edges.
11. Use fabric paint for the numbers.
12. You now have a 10' x10' playing board with 36 squares.
13. Add your snakes and ladders and you are ready to play!
The Cards

Two complete card sets, Snakes and Ladders in each, are included in this package. The oversized cards are to use with the room-sized game, the smaller cards with the tabletop version. In each set there are blank cards to collect your own Snakes and Ladders for Learning.

Either set of cards can be photocopied on lightweight card and then trimmed. Artwork can be added or the supplied art can be photocopied on the reverse side. Printable card set files can be found at www.ldandwholelifelearning.ca. Please test print to ensure text and artwork are in line.
Snakes and Ladders for Learning
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Resources
Tabletop Playing Boards and Snakes and Ladders

Snakes, ladders and boards can be photocopied and enlarged or draw your own.

Two versions are available on the following pages and on the website www.ldandwholelifelearning.ca if you prefer to print.

The 64 Square Board and The 36 Square Board.

The Tabletop Cards are available starting page 34.
The Cards

Ladders
You discover the multiple intelligences. You are passionately involved in a hobby, sport or craft. You try something new.
You enter a contest.

You do something well.

You win a prize.
You eat well.
You pay attention to your health.
You attain a skill.
You do some of your learning in areas of interest – not always in your weak areas.

You use the services that work for you.

You believe in yourself.
A teacher says something positive to you.

You find and use a learning tool that works for you.

You are grounded and know your triggers.
You ask for help. Someone believes in you. Someone (unrelated to you) notices and encourages you in your unique skill set.
You are raised in a stable, supportive, healthy family.

You understand how you learn.

You are awarded a scholarship or bursary.
You study hard, hand in all your assignments and achieve a good final mark.
The Cards

Snakes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Help?</th>
<th>You don't need help.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You pretend.</td>
<td>You're alright, you don't need help.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cognitive skills.</th>
<th>Social skills or knowledge.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You cover up and againt.</td>
<td>Slipping down this snake again.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physically</th>
<th>Emotionally or mentally.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stressed</td>
<td>Overwhelmed.</td>
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<th>Alert: Crossroad</th>
<th>Alert: Crossroad</th>
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<tr>
<td>What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?</td>
<td>What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
You can’t communicate your feelings and your needs.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You freeze up when asked to fill in a form so end up not receiving a service you could benefit from.

You drop out.

You can’t communicate your feelings and your needs.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You drop out.
You hide your problem/keep it secret.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You give up.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You fail a placement or entry test to a program you were excited about.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?
You pretend you understand.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You cover up.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You pretend you understand.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You freeze in an exam.
You are triggered.

Crossroad  Alert:
What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You have trouble keeping up.

Crossroad  Alert:
What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You get bullied.

Crossroad  Alert:
What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You are triggered.

Crossroad  Alert:
What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You have trouble keeping up.
You feel like a loser.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You think differently than others.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You don't try.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You feel like a loser.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You find out you think differently than others.
You stay in a rut.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You quit.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

Your instructor thinks you cheated.

Crossroad Alert: What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?
Your learning needs are not understood.

Crossroad Alert:
What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You flunked a grade as a child and it still bothers you.

Crossroad Alert:
What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You have gender roles imposed on you.

Crossroad Alert:
What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You flunked a grade as a child and it still bothers you.

Your learning needs are not understood.
You look different, feel different, and express yourself in different ways.

Crossroad Alert:
What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You feel judged and inferior.

Crossroad Alert:
What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You don’t send the “right” social cues and fail to read body language.

Crossroad Alert:
What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You look different, feel different, and express yourself in different ways.

Crossroad Alert:
What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

You feel judged and inferior.
You can't communicate your feelings and needs. What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

Crossroad Alert:

You are suffering from time to time. Suffering from time to time can be very difficult. It can be hard to know how to make things better. You might feel like you can't communicate your feelings to others. What can you do to prevent slipping down this snake again and again?

Crossroad Alert:

needs and your feelings. Your community, family, and work can all make a difference. What can you do to make things better?
Tabletop Card Sets

Ladders

Snakes
You believe in yourself. Your work reflects your involvement in multiple disciplines. You do some research or write. You win a prize. You are well.

You are not always in interest to your learning of your attention.

You use all the services skill.

A new something.

You win an election.
You keep trying.

You look for and use your strengths.

You try again.

Someone believes in you.

You ask for help.

Someone notices and encourages you in your unique skill set.

A teacher says something positive to you.

You find and use a learning tool that works for you.

You are grounded and know your triggers.

You understand how you learn.

You are raised in a supportive, healthy family.

You are awarded a scholarship or bursary.
excited about
you were
to a program
or entry test
placement
you fail a

You pretend
You freeze
You drop out.
Your needs
and feelings
communicate
you can’t

You are feeling
emotionally or
mentally
stressful
overwhelmed

You pretend
You are okay.
You hide your
problem/keep
it secret.

You give up.
You don’t need
help.

You’re drained,
cognitive skills.

You cover up.
You don't send your
body language.

Read and follow
social cues
in different ways.

You feel judged
and inferior.

You get bullied.

You have trouble
keeping up.

You think differently
than others.

Roles imposed
gender
Your

You don't try.

You feel like a
loser.

Your learning
needs are not
understood.

Child and
grade are a
grade or a

You can do the

What can you do to prevent

What can you do to prevent

What can you do to prevent

What can you do to prevent

What can you do to prevent

What can you do to prevent