

Speed Checkers

A quick checkers game in the woods



Age: 4+

Time: 10 minutes

Young children can learn to play speed checkers in the woods, a two-player game.

Here's How:

- 1. Follow the trail into the Children's Discovery Forest.** In the center of the forest, you will see a clearing with logs sitting end up, some of them with colorful checkerboard grids on top.
- 2. One player gathers 8 cones from the ground, and the other gathers 8 woodchips.** Players stand opposite each other on either side of the board.
- 3. Place the cones and woodchips on the board.** The player with the cones places them on the 8 red squares in the closest two rows. The player with the chips places them on the 8 red squares in the closest two rows.
- 4. The goal of the game is for a player to get the most cones or chips to the red squares on the opposite side of the board.**
- 5. The player with the cones moves first.**
- 6. To move a piece, the player diagonally moves one cone onto a red square that is not occupied, moving towards the opposite side of the board.**

7. The **player with chips then diagonally moves one chip onto a red square that is not occupied**, moving towards the opposite side of the board.
8. Players continue to alternate turns, moving one piece at a time. **If your piece is diagonally next to the other player's piece and there is an empty space beyond, then you may jump over the other player's piece and capture it** (take it off the board).
 - In the photo above, a cone jumped over a chip and now the chip is sitting on the side of the board.
9. Keep trying to **move your pieces to the other side of the board without them getting jumped and captured!**

The Back Story:

Playing checkers in the woods encourages players to use materials at hand to play games, and provides opportunities for decision-making, logical thinking, taking turns, and practicing good sportsmanship.