

Stones and Cones

A three-in-a-row game in the woods



Age: 5+

Time: 1 minute

Young children can learn and play this 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 up, some of them with 9-square grids on top.
- 2. One player gathers a handful of cones** from the ground, and **the other gathers a handful of stones.**
- 3. The player with the cones places one cone in one of the 9 squares.**
- 4. Then the player with the stones places one stone in one of the remaining 8 squares.**
- 5. Play continues to alternate between players until all squares are filled with cones or stones.**
- 6. The way to win is to get 3 cones or 3 stones in a horizontal row, vertical column, or diagonal.**
 - The photo shows three cones in a diagonal, so the cones win.
- 7. If no one gets three cones or stones in a row, column, or diagonal, that means both players were playing very carefully and no one wins.**
- 8. When you play again, the player with stones begins.**

The Back Story:

Playing stones and cones enhances manual dexterity and strategy skills, and teaches patience, turn-taking, and good sportsmanship.