

The board game for our 3 year old g/daughter is called 'evie goes to visit grandma and granddad'.

It starts at her house and ends at our house. It's a kind of snakes and ladders game. There is a small dice to see how many squares the players move, and some squares have events in the journey between the houses. If the player lands on one of these, they lift a flap and have an instruction e.g. move forward/back 1 square/ go back to a previous square.

We had some a3 size thin card, and used 2 sheets. But 4 x a4 sheets would do as well.

Lay the sheets out with enough of an overlap so they can be sellotaped together – it's better not to do this yourself as the sheets will fit in envelope better if left loose. But mark up the line where parent needs to tape them together.

We found that 39 steps was about right to fit in the space, doing a curve from bottom left to bottom right on each sheet.

Our game used a photo from google earth of Evie's house as the starting point. She lives in Belfast, so we had a trip by taxi to the airport, by plane, and then taxi to our house. The events on the way were:

- Taxi arrives early – move 1 square
- Arrive at airport but cant find favourite toy – go back to taxi square and find her
- Plane takes off early - +1 sq.
- No crisps (favourite snack) on the plane -2 sq.
- Grandma waiting at arrivals +1 sq
- Stop to play at park +2 sq
- The end is 'Arrive g/ma and g/dad house'

We had between 2 and 4 squares between each event.

For the event squares, we used a mix of photos on the internet and our own snaps and sized these with extra on one side so they could be taped on that side and lifted up to reveal the instruction about what had happened and moving squares underneath.

The 'arriving...' square has a google earth photo of our house, taped on one side, and when it's lifted there is a small photo of us both and a small cake underneath, and on back of house photo it says 'hello evie!!'

We also decorated with various stickers we had but again cut out shapes or stuff from internet would do.

For the dice, we made a small triangle of card with sides numbered 1,2,3 because with only 39 steps a 6 sided dice would finish the game too quickly. We made a very small hole in middle so a cocktail stick can be inserted – but not very far. And then the long end is twirled like those tops in xmas crackers – it should be fairly random where it stops and falls over!

We had some small wooden fruit we sent as counters, or these could be made from card and decorated.

The 2x a3 sheets fold in half and with the dice and counters will fit in a 'large letter' size envelope. We didn't tape the sheets together as they fit in the envelope better.

You can buy large letter postage online from royal mail, and the printout comes with the addressee details.

It seemed to be a success with Evie!!

Hopefully it wont stimulate lots of demands 'when are we going to see g/ma' – that's the only danger. But of course you wont have to deal with this – it will be something the parents have to suffer!!

