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Families discover fun and games at specialty stores

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By Samantha Nelson

Looking for a new way to spend some quality time with your family during the long winter months?

Local game stores offer special board game nights so customers can spend a few hours trying out some of their products while having a little fun. Adults and families can try new games or play old favorites and see if there is something they like enough to buy and bring home.

{Chicagoland Games}: 5550 N. Broadway St., Chicago, (773) 728-3656, chicagolandgames.com

Two-year-old game store Chicagoland Games has been hosting weekly family gaming nights for the last year. From 2 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays, the store sets up eight gaming tables where visitors can try anything from a selection of more than 400 games including many of their newest offerings. The focus is on European board games. All of the games require reading comprehension, so the store mostly attracts parents with children ages 9 and older.

"We're pushing the idea of families playing board games together instead of watching TV," co-owner J.P. Nery said. "It's really neat to see parents play games with their kids. You really get to see how smart your kid has gotten."

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