

# But They Are Just Playing Games!

Darlene Ayotte and Jackie Chase  
August 2014

# Person to Person

Ice Breaker

# Introduction

- Kids want to play in afterschool and playing is learning
- Hands-on experiences are keys to learning
- SmartTALK Games offer time for purposeful play; a chance for kids to road-test the skills they learn in the classroom while having fun.

# SmartTALK's three key learning strategies:

- Brain-building talk
- Asking good questions
- Learning how to learn

SmartTALK learning games allow kids to continue developing thinking and learning skills after homework is done. While they play with the materials, kids:

- Practice their academic skills
- Talk about ideas and strategies
  - Negotiate rules and solve problems

# Activity

- We are going to divide up into groups of 4 or 5.
- Within your groups you will be playing each of your games. You will get 30 minutes to play your assigned game.
- Within your group you must have a game master, time keeper, and a game keeper.

# Game Play



# Activity

The next 15 minutes you will be working in your game groups to answer the following:

- What academic skills did the game require? As an adult what are some ways you can reinforce these academic skills while playing the games?
- What ideas and strategies did you use as an individual and in a group while playing the game?
- As a group how did you negotiate rules and solve problems?



# Group Presentations

- Now you will present your game to the group and share how your game reinforces Academic, social, and problem solving skills.

# Questions / Comments

The slide features a dark blue gradient background. At the bottom, there are decorative wavy lines in shades of white and gold, creating a layered, wave-like effect.