

MIND LAB

The Mind Lab Vision

Since the dawn of civilization, thinking games have played a pivotal role in culture and in family life. Teachers would draw lines in the sand as environmental game boards for students to position game pieces for engrossing, mathematically focused, mind building exercises. Playing mentally and socially captivating games served to connect families and communities together through conversation and collaboration rich game play.

At the heart of Mind Lab is the principle that the best way to reach, teach, and inspire children, is through enthralling thinking board games. Playing these games so captivates the student learners that they literally beg for more "play" when the sessions conclude.

Through its multicultural mix of games, Mind Lab offers children, ages 4-17, an experiential and inquiry focused approach for addressing: mathematical reasoning, problem solving, literacy, test sophistication skills and life skills; as they have tremendous fun teaming and playing by the rules.



The Mind Lab Methodology

Step One: Playing Thinking Games

Students learn how to play one of the many Mind Lab games through the instructor's sharing a game kit with them. The instructor facilitates a review of the game rules, instructions, underlying thinking concepts and strategies for successful play.



Step Two: Using the Mind Lab Method

After initial "playing of the game," students are presented with one of the thinking models, through which they can reflect on the experience of playing. This model relates to cognitive processes triggered by game playing, or to emotional or social processes.



Step Three: Making Real World, Real Life Connections

Then the students go beyond the game itself to talk about the ways in which their insights "play" out in the real world of: school, family, neighborhood, work, politics, and community.



Emotional Skills

- Managing emotions
- Deferring gratification
- Persistence
- Resilience
- Willpower and perseverance
- Self-discipline

Cognitive Skills

- Problem-solving
- Decision Making
- Drawing conclusions
- Mathematics and logic
- Verbal abilities
- Sequencing
- Weighing options

Social Skills

- Cooperation
- Rules and structure
- Effective communication
- Conflict resolution
- Collaboration/Team Play
- Youth Leadership
- Character Education

