

Reported by Vicci Cook

The Family Vacation Game

- **The Family Connection**
716-604-8273
thefamilyconnection.info
- **Ages 5 and up; up to 8 family members**
- **SRP \$24.99**

Teach your kids how to budget. Teach yourself how to budget! In The Family Vacation game, family members first decide where they want to take their vacation – Hawaii? Yellowstone? Disneyland? The beach? – then come up with a realistic budget for all the expenses.

Once you've established your budget for your vacation, you then need to come up with the cash for it. You do this by moving around the

board, collecting on your payday, paying your bills and other things that come up unexpectedly, just as in real life. And you set aside money for that vacation.



"I thought it gave lots of good ideas for spending time together, and the messages were great. Good lessons for kids – and everyone!"

Jill, adult

Once all members reach the map in the center of the board, count up your money. Got enough? If you do, then start packing! If not, revise your budget or play again.

You'll find that you'll spend as much time making the budget as you do moving around the board. The banker may want to keep loose track of how much money is being put aside, so that everyone will know how much they need to save.

This cooperative game fosters close interaction and teamwork because there's a common goal.

Everyone wins if the goal is met. The Family Vacation Game can be an especially good tool to show kids the work that goes into planning a vacation. It doesn't just magically happen. The rules suggest researching a trip on the Internet, a sure bet for getting the kids involved.

The included budget sheet is a

"It's fun. I'd play again."
David, age 10

nice idea and a good guide, but if you play this game enthusiastically, you'll want to do it yourself. To me, \$30 per day per person seems a little unrealistic for food, but then I haven't been on vacation in several years!

Although we had a mixed group play this game, this should really be played as a family. One group, who would never vacation together, found it complicated and boring, but one family found it easy, fun and interesting.

Pros: Promotes teamwork and a great teaching tool for kids.

Cons: If it's competition you're after, then this cooperative game isn't for you.

