



LITTLE DRIVERS: Traffic Jam

This printable logic game turns car chaos into a screen-free challenge that strengthens **visual memory, focus, and early problem-solving** - all through play.

The two included activities support **spatial reasoning, visual memory, matching, grid referencing, critical thinking, and early logic skills, and orientation in 2D space**. These are powerful foundational skills for both **math and reading**. For example, visual tracking supports reading fluency, while logical reasoning helps children solve problems step-by-step a key part of cognitive development.

This game can be played solo (recreating layouts) or with a partner (battle-style).

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

You don't need to "teach" this game. Simply join the fun, stay curious, and let your child explore first. Give your child time to test ideas, flip cars, and try different layouts before stepping in. If something doesn't match perfectly, that's okay. We're building thinking skills, not perfection.

What helps most:

- **They go at their own pace.** Let them test ideas, flip pieces, and figure it out - that's where the learning is!
- **Offer words before hands.** If they seem stuck, guide with questions like: "Which car is in the top row?" or "What's next to the blue car?"
- **Try not to adjust the layout for them unless they ask.**
- **Mistakes are clues.** If the layout doesn't match, talk it through: "What looks different?" "Should something slide left or rotate?"
- **Let them pretend.** Making engine sounds and naming the cars isn't just cute - it boosts language and memory.
- **Play = learning.** Matching, scanning, and placing objects builds real neural connections.

DID YOU KNOW? (Fun Car Facts for Curious Kids)

Sprinkle in these fun facts while your child plays to spark curiosity and conversation:

- **The first car ever made only went 10 miles per hour!**
- **Race cars can go faster than a plane taking off. (That's over 200 mph!)**
- **Some cars are electric and don't need petrol. They plug in like phones!**
- **The world's longest traffic jam was over 100 miles long. (Can you imagine waiting that long?)**

These fun facts can help you extend conversations, build vocabulary, and even inspire pretend play. Try asking: "Did you know that?" or "Which fact surprised you the most?" You can even create **your own traffic jam at home** and measure it with a ruler. How long is your jam?

Bonus tip: Head to your local library and borrow a children's car encyclopaedia - see what those first cars looked like or how race cars are built! This helps turn curiosity into discovery beyond screens.

COPY & PARK CHALLENGE

What It Teaches: **Spatial awareness · Grid referencing skills · 2D spatial orientation · Visual memory · Problem solving**



[DOWNLOAD](#)

How to Play:

Choose a challenge card. Recreate the layout by placing vehicles on the blank grid. Start with simple puzzles (3-4 cars) and progress to harder ones. For younger children, you can **first model one example out loud** before inviting them to try on their own.

Extra tips:

- **Memory Mode:** Let your child look at the challenge card for just 5-10 seconds - then cover it! Can they remember the whole layout?
- **Design Your Own Jam:** Have your child create their own grid challenge for you to solve! Great for critical thinking and reversibility.
- **One-Car Switch-Up:** Change just one vehicle's spot - can they find what's different? This builds attention to detail and comparison skills.
- **Verbal Instructions Only:** Instead of showing the card, describe it step-by-step using position words (e.g. "Put the fire truck on B2"). Great for listening and following directions.
- **Timed Challenge:** Use a stopwatch to see how quickly they can solve each layout - and improve over time.

BATTLEFIELD MODE (2 PLAYERS)

What It Teaches:

- Grid referencing (A1, B3, etc.)
- Logical deduction
- Turn-taking and communication

How to Play:

Each player secretly places a chosen number of cars on their own grid (3-5 works well depending on age). Take turns guessing coordinates to “find” your opponent’s vehicles. First to find all cars wins!

For younger children, you can use a version with labelled coordinates (A1, B2). Older children can play on a blank grid for more challenge.

Laminate the blank grids and cars and let kids use dry-erase markers to track their guesses. This makes the game last longer and helps build reasoning by letting them visually eliminate spaces - just like a real detective!

Say instructions

- “A2 - is there anything parked there?”
- “You hit my fire truck!”

PRO TIPS FOR PARENTS

- **Add challenges like timers, role play** (“You’re the parking officer!”)
- **Watch for signs of frustration** - if they want to play differently, let them. There’s no wrong way to engage.
- **Repetition is great!** Kids thrive on doing the same thing over and over - that’s how mastery builds.
- **Make mistakes on purpose and ask your child to help you fix them.** This role reversal helps children feel confident, reinforces learning, and shows that mistakes are normal. **Mistakes are our friends - they teach us!**
- You can place the card in another room so your child **runs, memorises, and returns to build it.**

HELPFUL TOOLS FOR PLAY & PREP

Want to make the most of your Traffic Jam?

Here are some of our favourite tools we use at home:

- **Laminator & pouches** - Keeps your printables durable and ready for reuse
- **Dry-erase markers** - So you can play again and again!
- **Storage box** - Handy for keeping everything together in one place
- **Car Encyclopaedia** - Explore real-world car facts and feed their curiosity

These are affiliate links - they don't cost you anything extra, but help support our small business when you shop through them. Thank you!

CAR COUNTING PACK

Love this game?

There’s more inside the **Little Drivers: Car Counting Pack!** If your little one enjoyed this grid game, they’ll love our full printable pack designed to build early math skills through play!

This extension keeps the learning playful while strengthening early number sense and visual scanning.

The Car Counting Pack includes:

- **Number roads for 0-9**
- **Peg-and-park mats for one-to-one correspondence**
- **I Spy games for visual scanning**
- **Car colour sorting**
- **Bonus tips and facts to keep the learning going!**



SHOP NOW



Questions or Feedback?

We’d love to hear how your little driver is learning through play! Tag us on Instagram [@littleactivities.co](https://www.instagram.com/littleactivities.co) or send us a message at contact@littleactivities.com

More Play, More Learning

We’re always creating new hands-on activities to support your little one’s development.

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