This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. Summer may be over but not the fun. This week we are going to make a game board that can be used to play inside or outside. It is a game of challenge and can be played quickly. Keep the board out and play a few games when you need a break from other school work or just want to spend a few minutes with friends or family. This is a great game for any age. It is good practice for taking turns, strategy, consequence, and many other learning moments.

1- Gather your supplies together and get ready to have some fun. Trace a quarter on paper or a larger circle, if you are playing outdoors with a big board. You need four circles, two for each player. Cut out the circles and glue on to cardboard or heavy paper like a paper grocery bag. Color these or decorate anyway you like. You can find fun things around the house that match to use for markers. Two for you and two for the other player. You can use anything for markers like coins, buttons, even colored Tootsie Rolls!

2- On paper, draw three lines the same length as if you were drawing a square. Leave the top line off, you will only use 3 lines. Draw two straight lines matching opposite corners, so you have a point of intersection in the middle of the board. You can draw a colored circle in each corner point and the center to highlight these points. You can decorate your game board with crayons, markers, or chalk if you are outside.

3- Start the game with one player’s markers on one side of the board (top and bottom circle) and the second player’s markers on the other side of the board (top and bottom). The bottom line should be on the bottom and the empty space on the top. Decide who will go first. The first player will take one of their bottom markers and move it to the center space. The second player will move their marker to an open spot. Keep taking turns to move your markers until someone is blocked and cannot move their marker. That is the end of the game. Move the markers back to the beginning position and start again.

Have fun and be a good-sport!

Ms. Susan