

Carrentals.co.uk Family Travel Tips No. 4 – Driving Games

A long journey with children can be a real test and often creates a stressful beginning to what was originally planned as a relaxing family holiday. Car games are a great way to alleviate boredom and as part of the Carrentals.co.uk Family Active 2007 travel tips series they have put together some classic games to keep the kids happy on a long journey.

- 1) **Memory Games** – The first person starts by saying: “I went to the supermarket and bought...” and chooses an item such as an apple. The second person then continues with: “I went to the supermarket and bought an apple and...” and chooses a second item to buy. The third person then has to follow the pattern repeating all the items bought and add his/her own onto the end of the list.
- 2) **Scavenger Hunt** – Before you set off prepare a checklist for each child with different items on to look out for during the journey, such as a post box, a restaurant, a stop sign, a VW Beetle etc. The children then need to look out for these items and tick them off their list as they see them. The winner is the child that completes their list first or the one with the most ticks at the end of the journey. For smaller children you can draw pictures of the items instead of writing it so they know what to look out for.
- 3) **Who am I?** – One person thinks of a famous person and everyone else needs to guess who that celebrity is by asking questions. The first person can only answer the questions with “yes” or “no” so the others need to think carefully about what they ask. The person who guesses the celebrity correctly then takes over and has to think of someone different for the rest of the group to guess.
- 4) **I Spy** – An all time classic that can be played anywhere. The spy needs to choose an item that everyone in the car can see and the others take it in turns to guess what that item is. Younger children may need a few extra clues like what colour or shape the item is.

- 5) **The Alphabet Game** – Players choose a category such as girl's names or places and then take it in turn to think of a name in that category that begins with each letter of the alphabet in order. This game is great for kids of all ages as the categories can be as easy or as difficult as you like.

- 6) **Pub Cricket** - This works best when driving through towns. You have to look out for Pubs, and look at what they are called. Then you score 'runs' by the number of legs in the title i.e. the 'Quiet Woman' would score 2 runs, and the 'Black Horse' would score 4. Your innings is over when a pub name has no legs for example 'The Town House'. The winner is whoever scores the most during their innings.

- 7) **Shhhh!** – Probably the most favourable game with parents! The aim of the game is to see who can be the quietest for the longest. If you make any noise at all then you are out and the game ends when the last person in the car makes a noise – making them the winner!

- 8) **The Cow Game** – One team takes the left side of the road, the other takes the right. You keep count of all the cows you see on the journey. But every time you pass a garage on your side of the road you lose all of your points. The person with the most points at the end is the winner.

Disclaimer - These tips are not exhaustive and are for information only. Carrentals.co.uk can not be held responsible for any losses incurred as a result of acting on any information contained herein. We hope the tips are useful.

Useful websites –

www.e-niko.co.uk

www.activitiesforkids.com

