

Nintendo Switch Games for Children Aged 7–11



A Guide for Parents:

We do not judge reading solely by the amount of time children spend reading; we also consider what they are reading. A well-chosen book can develop vocabulary, imagination, empathy and knowledge. In much the same way, the quality of a video game often matters more than the amount of time spent playing it.

Many modern games encourage children to solve problems, think strategically, communicate with others, persevere through challenges and express their creativity. This guide highlights a selection of Nintendo Switch games that offer a broad range of positive experiences for primary school-aged children. Alongside well-known favourites, parents will also discover several independent titles they may not have encountered before.


The games have been organised into six broad categories:






- **Creativity & Design** focuses on creating and building.
- **Problem Solving & Logical Thinking** highlights reasoning and analytical skills.
- **Strategic Thinking & Planning** features decision-making and organisation.
- **Communication & Teamwork** focuses on co-operation and social interaction.
- **Exploration & Discovery** celebrates curiosity and independent investigation.
- **Simulation & Responsibility** includes games centred around management, routines and caring for ongoing projects.

The aim of this guide is not to rank games, but to help parents discover a wider range of high-quality experiences and make informed choices based on their child's interests and needs.

Please note that some of these titles are also available on other platforms, including PlayStation, Xbox and PC.


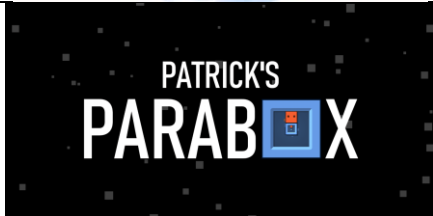
Creativity & Design

Cover	Game Name	PEGI (Age Rating)	About the Game	Skills Developed
	Minecraft	7	Explore, gather resources and build almost anything imaginable in a vast sandbox world shaped by your own ideas.	Creativity, planning, spatial awareness, resilience




	Animal Crossing: New Horizons	3	Create your own island community, decorate homes and complete projects at your own pace.	Creativity, organisation, responsibility, design
	The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom	7	Explore a huge fantasy world and invent machines to solve challenges in creative ways.	Engineering thinking, creativity, invention
	Super Mario Maker 2	3	Design and share your own Mario levels, experimenting with obstacles, puzzles and ideas.	Design, creativity, experimentation
	Game Builder Garage	7	Learn simple programming concepts while creating your own playable video games.	Programming concepts, logical thinking, creativity
	Dragon Quest Builders 2	7	Gather materials, construct buildings and help rebuild towns through creative projects.	Construction, planning, creativity
	Disney Dreamlight Valley	3	Restore a magical village, complete quests and personalise the world around you.	Design, organisation, creativity




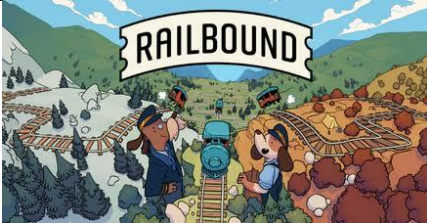
Problem Solving & Logical Thinking

Cover	Game Name	PEGI (Age Rating)	About the Game	Skills Developed
	Captain Toad: Treasure Tracker	3	Rotate and explore miniature worlds to uncover treasures and solve environmental puzzles.	Logic, reasoning, spatial awareness
	Portal: Companion Collection	7	Use linked portals to navigate test chambers and solve increasingly clever puzzles.	Logical thinking, experimentation, reasoning
	BoxBoy! + BoxGirl!	3	Create boxes to overcome obstacles in a series of thoughtful puzzle challenges.	Sequencing, logic, spatial thinking
	The Legend of Zelda: Link's Awakening	7	Explore mysterious islands, solve dungeon puzzles and uncover secrets through careful observation.	Puzzle solving, sequencing, map reading
	Kirby and the Forgotten Land	7	Explore colourful worlds, discover abilities and overcome challenges through experimentation.	Problem solving, exploration, perseverance


	Chicory: A Colorful Tale	7	Use painting powers to solve puzzles and restore colour to the world.	Creative problem solving, critical thinking
	Patrick's Parabox	3	Manipulate boxes within boxes in mind-bending puzzles that reward persistence and logic.	Logic, spatial reasoning, perseverance



Strategic Thinking & Planning

Cover	Game Name	PEGI (Age Rating)	About the Game	Skills Developed
	Pikmin 4	7	Lead teams of tiny creatures, manage resources and plan efficient solutions to environmental challenges.	Resource management, planning, leadership
	Dorf Romantik	3	Place landscape tiles to build peaceful villages, forests and rivers while carefully planning to achieve the highest score.	Strategic thinking, planning, spatial reasoning, decision making
	Mario + Rabbids	7	Guide characters through turn-based battles where careful planning beats quick reactions.	Tactical thinking, strategy






	Factorio	7	Design automated factories and transport networks to produce increasingly complex resources.	Systems thinking, optimisation, logistics
	Into the Breach	7	Protect cities by predicting enemy actions and planning moves several turns ahead.	Planning ahead, decision making
	Mini Motorways	3	Build road networks to help a growing city keep traffic moving smoothly.	Organisation, traffic management, planning
	Railbound	3	Arrange railway tracks and routes to connect carriages in the correct order.	Sequencing, planning, logical thinking



Communication & Teamwork

Cover	Game Name	PEGI (Age Rating)	About the Game	Skills Developed
	Mario Kart 8 Deluxe	3	Race friends and family in accessible competitions that reward practice and resilience.	Sportsmanship, resilience, communication



	<p>Nintendo Switch Sports</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Compete and cooperate in a variety of sports-inspired activities.</p>	<p>Teamwork, communication, coordination</p>
	<p>Overcooked! All You Can Eat</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Work together in chaotic kitchens where communication is essential for success.</p>	<p>Cooperation, communication, organisation</p>
	<p>Snipperclips Plus</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Solve puzzles by discussing ideas and working together as a team.</p>	<p>Collaborative problem solving</p>
	<p>Yoshi's Crafted World</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Explore handcrafted levels together and help each other overcome challenges.</p>	<p>Cooperation, teamwork</p>
	<p>Luigi's Mansion 2 HD</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Investigate haunted locations and coordinate actions to solve puzzles and progress.</p>	<p>Cooperative exploration, communication</p>
	<p>Unravel Two</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Guide two characters through obstacles that require cooperation and careful teamwork.</p>	<p>Cooperation, communication, perseverance</p>





Exploration & Discovery

Cover	Game Name	PEGI (Age Rating)	About the Game	Skills Developed
	Super Mario Odyssey	7	Travel across imaginative worlds filled with secrets, surprises and opportunities to explore.	Curiosity, adaptability, exploration
	New Pokémon Snap	3	Photograph Pokémon in their natural habitats while observing their behaviour.	Observation, curiosity, attention to detail
	A Short Hike	3	Explore a peaceful island, meet characters and uncover hidden activities.	Exploration, independence
	Lil Gator Game	3	Embark on a playful adventure filled with exploration, imagination and discovery.	Curiosity, exploration, imagination
	Alba: A Wildlife Adventure	3	Explore a Mediterranean island while identifying wildlife and helping the local environment.	Observation, environmental awareness

	TOEM	7	Use photography to solve problems, meet characters and uncover hidden details.	Observation, exploration, creativity
	Pokémon Let's Go (Pikachu/Eevee)	7	Travel across a colourful world discovering creatures, locations and hidden secrets.	Discovery, collection, curiosity

Simulation & Responsibility

Cover	Game Name	PEGI (Age Rating)	About the Game	Skills Developed
	Stardew Valley	7	Manage a farm, grow crops and build relationships through rewarding long-term projects.	Planning, responsibility, resource management
	Spiritfarer	7	Build and manage a boat, care for passengers and complete meaningful tasks while exploring a beautifully crafted world.	Responsibility, empathy, organisation, planning
	Fresh Start	3	Restore polluted environments by cleaning rivers, planting flowers and bringing wildlife back to colourful landscapes.	Responsibility, environmental awareness, organisation, perseverance

	Farm Together	3	Build and manage a farm over time, balancing crops, animals and resources.	Long-term planning, responsibility
	Let's Build a Zoo	3	Create and manage a zoo while making decisions about animals and visitors.	Management, decision making
	Megaquarium	3	Design and run an aquarium, caring for exhibits and managing resources.	Organisation, systems thinking
	Two Point Campus	3	Build and manage a university while balancing facilities, staff and student needs.	Planning, management, problem solving