Spark on the Go

50 Screen-Free Play Missions for Restaurants, Errands, Waiting Rooms, Road Trips & Dinner Prep

For parents and caregivers of children ages 3–5



No bags to pack. One tiny mission at a time.

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FIRST EDITION | 50 MISSIONS · 10 PLAY MATS · 5 PHONE SHEETS

FIND YOUR MOMENT

Pick where you are right now.



FIVE REAL-LIFE SETTINGS · 50 MISSIONS + 10 PRINTABLE PLAY MATS

Restaurant Rescue · Tabletop Waits (10 missions + 2 mats) **p. 4**

Grocery Store Detectives · Aisle & Cart Errands (10 missions + 2 mats) **p. 11**

Waiting Room Wonders · Quiet Seats, Zero Supplies (10 missions + 2 mats) **p. 18**

Road Trip Fun · Buckled Car Rides & Rest Stops (10 missions + 2 mats) **p. 25**

Dinner's Almost Ready! · Nearby Play While You Cook (10 missions + 2 mats) **p. 32**

ONE-PAGE PHONE & BAG QUICK-SHEETS · SCREENSHOT OR PRINT

Restaurant Rescue — All 10 prompts on one sheet **p. 39**

Grocery Store Detectives — All 10 prompts on one sheet **p. 40**

Waiting Room Wonders — All 10 prompts on one sheet **p. 41**

Road Trip Fun — All 10 prompts on one sheet **p. 42**

Dinner's Almost Ready! — All 10 prompts on one sheet **p. 43**

Behind the play · Primary sources & family/classroom license **p. 44**

PRINTING & PHONE TIP

Includes matching 44-page Color and 44-page Low-Ink editions. Print only the play mats or quick-sheets you want on US Letter paper at Actual Size (100%). Contents and source numbers are clickable.

SETTING 1 · TABLETOP WAITS

Start with what is already on the table.



MISSION 01 · WATER GLASS & PAPER NAPKIN

Ice-Cube Scientists

"Look at the tiny drops forming outside our cold cup. Where did that water come from?"

Touch the cool glass together, then place one small ice cube on a folded napkin if available. Guess whether the cube in the cup or the cube on the napkin will shrink faster, and check back every few minutes.

Builds: Observation, cause-and-effect prediction and sensory vocabulary.

MISSION 02 · CLEAN SPOONS, FORKS & NAPKINS

Silverware Pattern Parade

"Watch my row: spoon, napkin, spoon, napkin. What comes next in my parade?"

Line up four clean tabletop items left to right and invite your child to add the next piece. Trade jobs so your child invents a secret pattern—like fork, fork, packet—for you to finish.

Builds: Repeating AB and AAB patterns, left-to-right tracking and turn-taking.

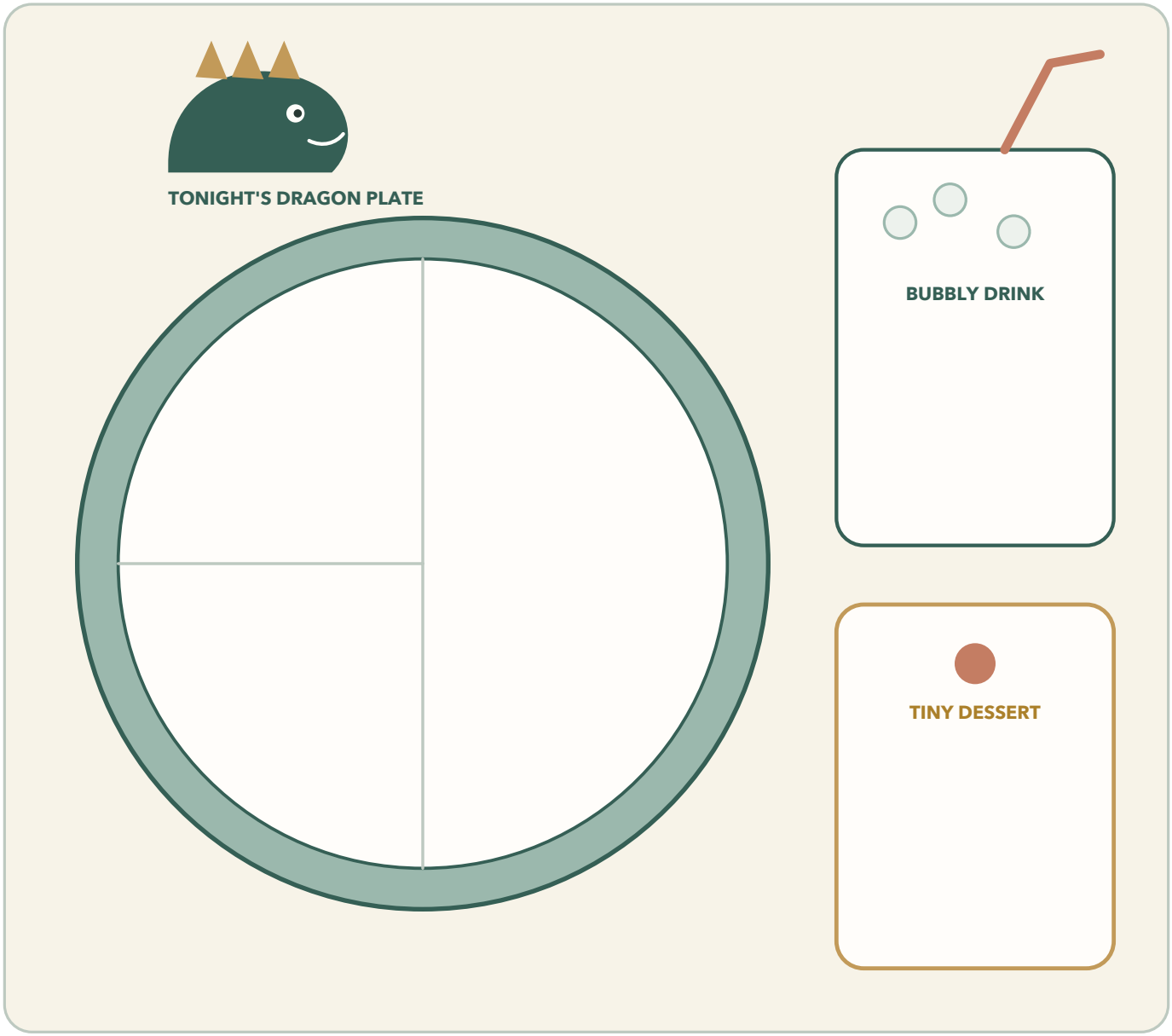
Safety first: Keep hot drinks, sharp knives and breakable glassware well out of reach; clear space together the moment a server approaches.

Developmental notes: 1, 2 | Sources on p. 44

PRINTABLE PLAY MAT 01 · RESTAURANT RESCUE

Dinner for a Friendly Dragon

Draw or scribble what our hungry little dragon is ordering tonight—something crunchy on the big plate, something bubbly in the cup, and a tiny dessert surprise!



Made by: _____ Date: _____

Adult tip: Write down your child's exact food names beside their marks ('lava noodles', 'moon berries') to show that their words matter.

PRINTABLE PLAY MAT 07 · ROAD TRIP FUN

Town & Open-Road Picture Hunt

For a stationary stop or clipboards with soft crayons: spot three in a row—or see if your family can find all nine sights before arriving!



Delivery Truck



Bridge



Traffic Light



Water Tower



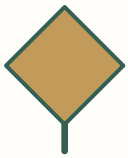
Tall Trees



Bus or Tractor



Fluffy Cloud



Road Sign



Red Barn

Made by: _____ Date: _____

Adult tip: Only non-driving passengers hold or check this page; for motion-sensitive riders, call items out orally instead.

RESTAURANT RESCUE · ONE-PAGE PHONE & BAG SHEET

Waiting for food? Pick one tabletop game.



Screenshot this page for your phone's Favorites album, or tuck one printed sheet into your bag with two crayons.

01 Ice-Cube Scientists – Touch the frosty cup and predict whether ice melts faster in water or on a napkin.

02 Silverware Pattern Parade – Line up spoon-napkin-spoon-napkin and take turns extending each other's pattern.

03 Straw-Wrapper Caterpillar – Scrunch a paper straw wrapper tight, add one drop of water, and watch it wiggle.

04 Sugar-Packet Bridge – Engineer a tiny bridge or tunnel from coasters, napkins or unopened packets.

05 Menu Number & Letter Hunt – Hunt a real menu for your child's age number or the first letter of their name.

06 Booth Sound Listeners – Close eyes for three slow breaths and name every kitchen sound you hear.

07 Copy My Hands – Mirror three slow, silent hand poses on the table—then let your child lead.

08 Doodle Duet – Share one crayon and take turns adding one line at a time until a creature appears.

09 One-Line Dragon Dinner – Build a back-and-forth story starting with a pocket-sized dragon joining your booth.

10 The Silliest Cafe – Imagine an octopus chef or giraffe waiter running the restaurant—how would food arrive?

Safety first: Keep hot drinks, sharp knives and breakable glassware well out of reach; clear space together the moment a server approaches.