Math

- The child learns to recognize and create patterns by strategically placing their tokens on the board.
- They develop critical thinking skills as they analyze the board and plan their moves to connect four tokens in a row.
- The game helps reinforce counting and number recognition as they keep track of the number of tokens in a row.
- They learn about probability and decision making as they anticipate their opponent's moves and adjust their own strategies.

For continued development, encourage the child to explore different variations of Connect four, such as playing on a larger grid or introducing additional rules like diagonal connections. They can also create their own Connect four board using materials like cardboard or foam and experiment with different token designs.

Book Recommendations

- <u>Connect Four: The Classic Game of Strategy</u> by Hasbro: This book provides an in-depth look at the history and strategy behind Connect four, making it a great resource for children interested in mastering the game.
- Math Games for Kids: Connect Four by Rebecca Wingard-Nelson: This book combines the fun of Connect four with math practice, offering a variety of puzzles and exercises to reinforce key math concepts.
- <u>Games and Puzzles from the Tree House: Connect Four</u> by Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce: This book features a Connect four game as part of an exciting adventure, making it an engaging read for children who love both games and stories.

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