

# WELCOME TO SMARTY FARM!™

**Before playing:** carefully separate each of the 4 sets of animal cards and place them in the 4 square receptacles in the plastic storage tray.

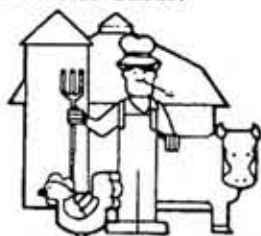
Great care is taken during the assembly of each game to assure that all parts have been included. Please check to see that you have the following: 4 playing boards with pictures of barns and animals in blue, red, yellow, and green; 4 sets of 16 square animal playing cards in the same colors as the playing boards (total 64); 3 animal cubes (dice) with red, blue and green barns.

## Introduction: (read aloud to children)

Hi, I'm very glad that you opened this box and decided to visit my farm. I've been working for a very long time and I'm really very tired. I've been waiting for someone like you to come and visit with me.

My name is Jason. I grew up on this farm and I've been a farmer all of my life. Everyday I wake up early, just before the sun begins to fill the sky. I clean up, feed my animals, plow my fields, plant and harvest my crops. Today, I worked especially hard, and now I must find my animals and put them in their barn.

My cows, pigs and chickens are very fussy. They each have their own special places in their barn and they don't like to be put where they don't belong. Would you help me find my animals and fill their barn?



## Group play: 2 to 4 children

1. The first thing you must do is decide who will go first. Each of you should roll all 3 of my animal dice. The one who gets the most pictures of the barn facing up goes first and may have first choice of board and card color. Let the turns now pass from the left of the first child, to the left of each of you.

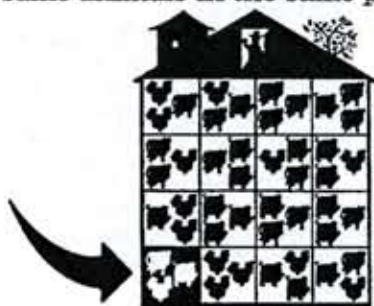
2. All of you should select a barn board and 16 matching animal cards. Please place your animal cards in a stack next to your barn boards.



3. It's getting dark and only the silhouette outlines of the animals are visible. Look very carefully at the animal pictures on your cards, barn boards, and dice cubes to be sure that you can recognize my pigs, cows and chickens. Unless you look carefully, sometimes it can be a little difficult to tell them apart.

4. Now take turns, and help me find my animals and fill my barn. The person who goes first should roll all 3 dice. Look through your stack of cards and find the card that has the exact number of cows, pigs, or chickens that are facing up on the dice.

5. Place the animal card over the window on your barn board that has the same animals in the same positions.



6. At Smarty Farm everyone always tries to help each other. I would like all of you children to work together. If any of you see that an animal card has been placed over a wrong window, tell the child who placed the card and show him or her why the card doesn't belong in that position. The child who made the wrong choice must remove the card from his or her barn board and wait until the next turn to try and correct the mistake.

## SMARTY FARM SHARPENS AND IMPROVES VISUAL PERCEPTION.

7. After the first child completes his or her turn, each of you may roll the animal dice in turn, finding a matching card in your stack and place it correctly on your own barn board.



8. Whenever a picture of my barn is facing up after you roll the dice, you may have a "free choice" and substitute any animal you choose for the barn. If you roll all 3 barns, any card you choose will be correct.

9. During a turn, if you discover that the combination of animals showing on the dice is the same as a card which has already been used, then you must pass your turn to the next child without placing any cards on your own barn board.

10. Continue to take turns and try to be the first to fill your barn board correctly. As soon as one of you has placed all of my animals correctly in the Smarty Farm barn, call out my name - Jason, just so I will know that you were the first to finish my days work. Thank you very much. I hope you will all come back to Smarty Farm again.

## Short Version:

If it's the end of a busy day at your house, you can shorten the game. Have the children play until one completes a straight line of 4 cards, either horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

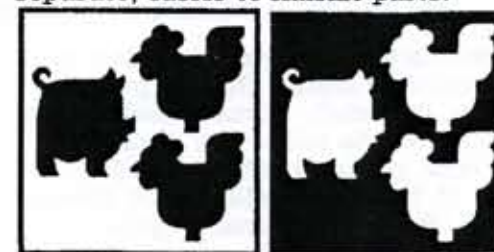
## A note to parents:

It is essential for children to develop the abilities to visually organize and sort information, as well as acquire the skill to differentiate and match patterns. Through imaginative play, Smarty Farm encourages children to develop their powers of reasoning in order to solve problems, while working cooperatively with others. Meeting a challenge and solving it can also be an enjoyable and exciting experience.

## Reading readiness:

Reading requires the development of a variety of separate skills, including the ability to recognize and classify visual symbols; first in letter form and then in combinations that form words. Children must develop their powers of thinking, reasoning and visual perception in order to undertake the complex analysis required for reading. Smarty Farm helps children to discriminate between correct card placement, can be encouraged to develop a systematic correct card placement, can be encouraged to develop a systematic approach to identifying, sorting and classifying the information presented on each card. The child can be shown how

to break the whole problem into separate, easier to handle parts.



Split the 3 information units into single parts

In order to properly place a card in its correct position, a child must recognize the 3 units of information represented by the animals found on the cards and in the barn windows. A child can be shown that every card and every barn window consists of 2 animals positioned one above the other and a single animal either to the left or right. By focusing initially on the single animal (one information unit), the child can eliminate many otherwise confusing choices. By the child's own powers of deductive reasoning, it will soon become apparent that the fastest and easiest way to find the correct position for a card is to first scan the rows horizontally (as in reading) or vertically, looking for the matching single animal figure in the windows. Now the child can focus on the remaining 2 figures and make a correct match.

## Learning should be fun.

It is important to recognize that while Smarty Farm is a "mind-stretcher", designed to help children, it is first and foremost a game for fun and entertainment. By unduly pressuring a child to succeed; frustration will obviate the fun, and the child will avoid or choose not to play the game.

The unhampered mind of a happy, free thinking child can accomplish wondrous things. Allow your child time to learn and grow at his or her own comfortable pace. Always reward successful accomplishments with a positive expression of your satisfaction.

## PLAY ALONE - solve the puzzle.

1. Choose any board and matching cards. Remove the card with 3 pigs and place all of the other cards at random over all but one window on the barn board.

2. Now try to move each card over to its correct position without picking up any cards. You can slide the cards, one at a time, horizontally or vertically to manipulate them around the board.

3. Keep score of the number of card movements. Try to plan ahead to make the least number of moves.

A lot more fun.  
**Leisure Learning®**