Go Away Monster!

The game where little kids get rid of the monsters for good!
for 1 - 4 players ages 3 and up

RULES OF PLAY

Object
The game ends when all the players have completed their bedroom game boards and all the monsters have been thrown into the "monster pit."

Contents
4 bedroom boards
16 bedroom puzzle pieces
  4 beds  4 lamps
  4 pictures  4 teddy bears
8 monsters
1 cloth monster bag

Set-up
Give each player one bedroom game board. Place the extra boards off to one side. Or, in a two-player game, give each player a second board, if you like. For each board that you don’t use, set aside one bed, one lamp, one picture, and one teddy bear (it doesn’t matter which ones).

Look over all the monsters and the puzzle pieces. Pick them up and see how they feel. You’ll find that some monsters are about the same size and shape as the bedroom puzzle pieces.

Then put all the monsters and puzzle pieces in the monster bag and mix them up.
Game Play

The oldest player begins (setting the example for the younger kids). Reach into the monster bag and feel around for an item to place in the blank spaces on your bedroom board. With your hand in the bag, try to distinguish between the different pieces, and decide which one feels as if it's the size and shape of a piece you need.

If you pull out a puzzle piece you need for your board, place it on the correct spot on your bedroom board. (Keep in mind that the puzzle pieces are interchangeable. Some pieces may look better on some boards than on others, but there's no right or wrong way to decorate the room.)

If you pull out a puzzle piece you already have, give it to another player who needs it.

If you pull out a monster, toss it into the center of the circle (we call it the monster pit, some kids like to call it jail) and say, "go away monster!" ... or sit on it, or hide it in the box, or throw it out the door. You decide how to get rid of those silly monsters. After all, you're in charge!

One by one, moving around the circle to the left, take turns removing an item from the bag. Once you pull out an item — whether you keep it, share it, or toss it — your turn is over. Pass the bag to the player on your left.

Ending the Game

Continue playing until all the puzzle pieces and monsters have been pulled out of the bag and are either placed on the bedroom boards or tossed into the monster pit. When the game is over, get rid of the monsters for good by taking them out of the monster pit, putting them back in the monster bag, and storing the bag in your Go Away Monster! box until the next time you play.
Competitive Game Play

In the competitive game play, the object is to be the first to fill your bedroom board. The set-up and game play are the same as in the cooperative version, with a couple of exceptions.

First, you want to avoid pulling a monster out of the bag so you can hurry to get all the puzzle pieces you need for your board. If you pull out a monster, it will just slow you down, so you need to get really good at discriminating between the shapes and sizes of the different pieces.

Second, if you pull out a puzzle piece you already have, put it back in the bag and pass the monster bag to the next player. Once you pull out an item—whether you keep it, put it back, or toss it—your turn is over. Pass the bag to the player on your left.

The first player to complete her board wins the game.

A Word from Gamewright

Being afraid of monsters is a normal part of growing up. One way that children are able to master this fear is by participating in narrative play or by playing games like Go Away Monster! that allow them to take control of the monsters. Go Away Monster! encourages kids to boss the monsters around, but it also lets them experience some of the fear, excitement, and anticipation in deciding what is real and what is imaginary.

Mastery and competence make children feel good about themselves. Kids who are allowed to express their fears with loving adults or older children feel comfortable trying new things and taking on challenges.

We had a lot of fun testing this game in day care centers. The kids wanted to play it over and over again. One little boy was both frightened and enamored of the game. He wanted me to put my hand in the bag with his to protect him from the monsters. Every time I come to the center now, he says, "Let's play the monster game . . . I'll be on your team!" We hope your children enjoy this game as much as the children in our lives have.

—Ann Stambler, Licensed Independent Social Worker

WARNING: Contains small components which are a choking hazard for children ages 3 and under.

Note: In all our rules, we use either "she" or "he" to include everyone!

Gamewright, Inc.
Games for the Infinitely Imaginative®
P.O. Box 120, Boston, MA 02206
Tel: 617-924-2006 Fax: 617-924-6101
E-mail: preschool@gamewright.com
http://www.gamewright.com
©1997 Gamewright, Inc. All worldwide rights reserved.

Game by Ann and Monty Stambler
Illustrations by Dana Regan