the dice game

The first player rolls six dice. Any dice that score points according to the chart at right are tallied and set aside. The player then has two options: 1) she may end her turn by recording the points she has earned on the score sheet, or 2) she may roll the remaining dice (the ones that didn't earn points) again. If one or more of the dice in her second roll can score points, she sets them aside and adds the points to her tally for this turn. Then she again chooses whether to end her turn and record the points she has earned so far, or continue to roll the remaining dice and hope to earn more points. If, at any time, a player rolls dice and none of them earn points, she loses all points from that turn, and her turn is over. The dice are then passed clockwise to the next player.

If, in one turn, all six dice have earned points (either in one roll or multiple rolls), the player may choose to continue her turn by rolling all six dice again. Any further points earned are added to the tally for that turn. However, if the dice are rolled and none score points, she still loses all points earned that turn.

Points are earned according to the chart at right. Combinations that earn points (such as three 4's earning 400 points, or a run of 1-2-3-4-5-6 earning 1000 points) must be rolled in one throw in order to earn points. For example, if a player rolls a 5 in her first roll and sets it aside as earning 50 points, then rolls the remaining dice and gets two more 5's, the three 5's cannot be combined into 500 points. They each score 50 points.

One player should keep score on a score sheet, adding the points each player earns each turn. The game is over when one player reaches 5000 (for a shorter game) or 10,000 (for a longer game).

For older children and adults: To make the game more difficult institute the "on the board" rule. This states that you cannot start recording points on the points sheet until you earn 1000 points in one turn, which allows you to "get on the board."

