

Games for the whole family

BY KRIS HAINS

For many families, the holidays invoke memories of family traditions. For many families those traditions include board games that are played as a family. At Enerdyne in Suttons Bay, owner Pat Cookman acknowledges the importance that family games play at the holidays.

"Family games are very traditional at Christmas time," she said.

When looking for games, Cookman recommends following basic guidelines. These are the same guidelines she and her staff follow when ordering games for Enerdyne:

- Games should have an educational component and not strictly chance.
- Games should appeal to as wide an age-group as possible.

Cookman likes to find games that are appropriate for little kids right on up through adults.

■ The game suggests multiple versions which allows the game to be modified for different age groups

■ Good Graphics "It's got to engage the person," Cookman said. And her most important guideline, "The game ought to make people happy and feel they're spending time well," she said.

Some examples of games that fit Cookman's criteria include "Smart Mouth" which allows the players to modify the rules in simple ways to make it more difficult or easier in order to level playing field. Another game, Anagramania involves moving letters around

within words to make other words. What Cookman likes about this game is the rules state that the first person who knows how to reorganize announces that he knows it, however the other players still get one more minute to figure out, giving all levels of players a chance to be a part of the game.

There is one game this year, according to Cookman, that is "apparently taking the world by storm" is SUDOKU. The game is available in versions for both adults and children. The children's version is a card game, while the adult version is a board game. The board, which is set up like a grid, features numerals randomly entered. Using the blank spaces, player needs to make sure the numbers 1-9 appear, in any order, in every row and every column.



Record-Eagle/Greg Undeen

Smart Mouth is a word game the whole family can play.

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