

My Visit Board Game

Purpose

This resource aims to facilitate conversation between a child or young person and a caregiver or professional. It is aimed at children eight and over, with an alternative jigsaw resource available for younger children.

This game can be used to prepare for a first prison visit. The game will show the child the journey from arrival through to visits hall so they know what to expect and who they may meet along the way. You can also use it to start a conversation around the child or young person's experience of their prison visits. By answering the questions about what happens at a visit, you can ask the child how they felt or what they enjoyed or disliked. We have based answers to the questions on most prisons, but some procedures and processes may vary depending on the establishment.

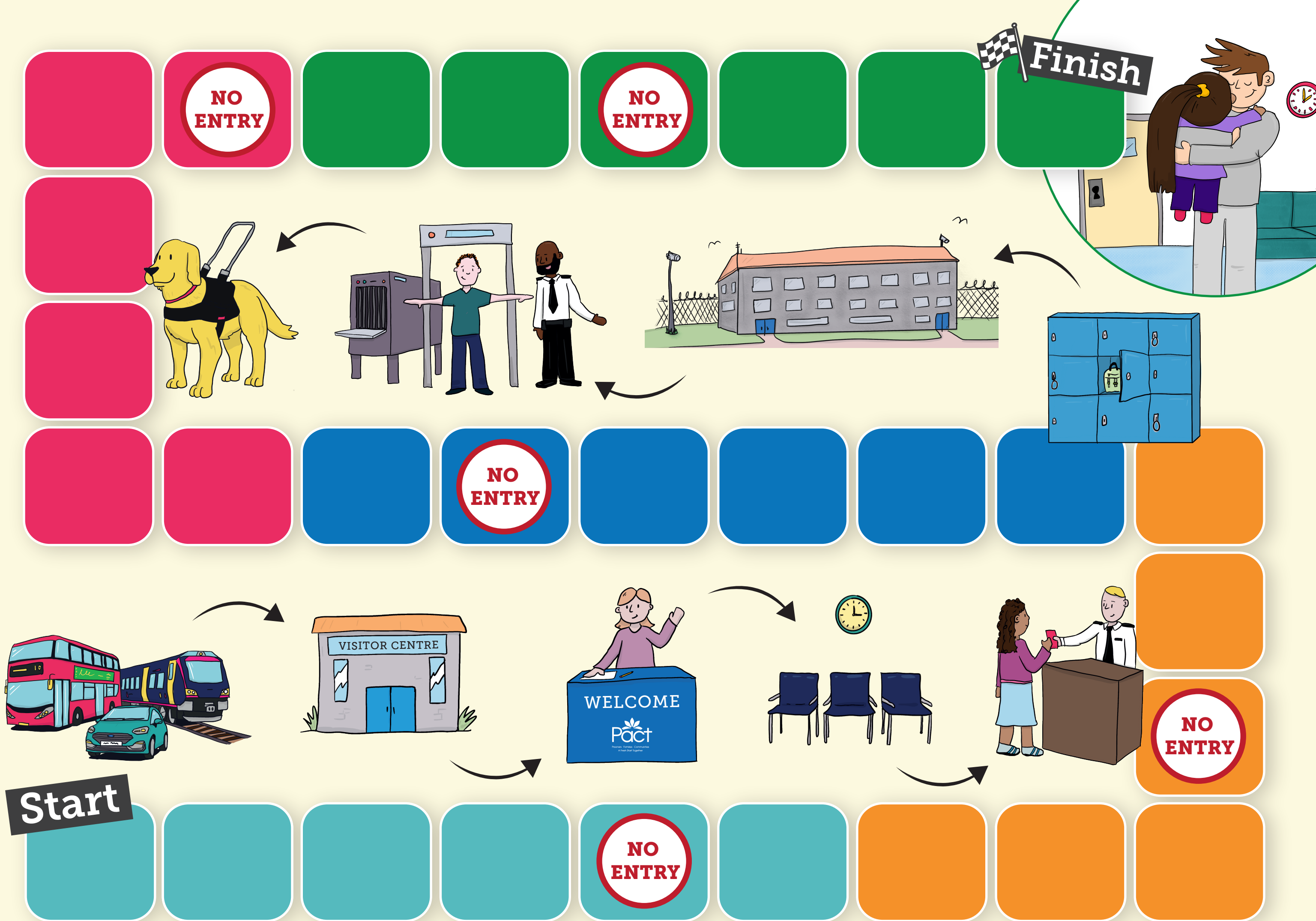
Go to the Pact website to find more resources for professionals, caregivers, and children and young people, including videos and animations and a PDF copy of our book Locked Out - which aims to help adults support children to cope with the imprisonment of a loved one.

How to play

Print out each page of the resource. Cut out the question cards and put them into piles according to colour. Cut out the counters and dice, if needed.

Each player starts by placing their counter on their mode of transport (bus, train or car). The first player answers a question from the turquoise pile. The other player asks the question. If the first player answers correctly, they can roll the dice and move their counter along the board. The next player takes their turn in the same way.

This repeats at each turn, and players choose questions from the cards that matches their counter's colour on the board. Anyone landing on a 'No Entry' sign must get two questions correct to move on. The first person to reach the visits hall, wins.



1

What ID do children and young people under 18 need to visit someone in prison?

- A.** passport or birth certificate
- B.** birth certificate AND passport
- C.** Driving licence

2

Are children and young people under 16 allowed to visit on their own?

- A.** Yes
- B.** No
- C.** Only in special circumstances and accompanied by a professional

3

If you wanted to give a book to your loved one in prison, how would you get it to them?

- A.** write their name and prison number inside and take it with you on your visit
- B.** write their name and prison number and leave it with prison staff to check and give to them

4

Which of the below statements are true? (you can choose more than one)

To visit someone in prison you must:

- A.** be on that person's visitor list
- B.** book your visit at least 24 hours in advance
- C.** have the right ID with you when you go

5

How much money can an adult take into a visit?

- A.** £20 in coins
- B.** £30 in coins
- C.** £30 in paper money
- D.** the rules are different at each prison

6

What are the prison staff called that wear uniform and check your ID?

- A.** guards
- B.** officers
- C.** OSGs

7

Which of the below can children and young people not wear into the prison? (two correct answers)

- A.** hats
- B.** hoodies
- C.** socks

8

Which of the below items will you and your family need to leave in a locker? (three correct answers)

- A.** bags
- B.** phones
- C.** coats
- D.** ID



Cut out each question card

9

When you go through security, what do you need to put in the tray that goes through the scanner? (three correct answers)

- A. belts
- B. watches
- C. shoes
- D. glasses

10

Sometimes you'll be scanned by a member of prison staff with a handheld wand. This will beep if it detects what?

- A. metal
- B. chewing gum
- C. smelly socks

11

Sometimes a prison staff member will need to search you by patting your arms, legs and torso with their hands. What will they be checking for?

- A. any items you forgot to leave in your locker
- B. snacks

12

If you have a question about the search or feel worried, who can you talk to?

- A. the adult you're visiting with
- B. the prison staff
- C. the visitors' centre staff
- D. all of the above

13

What breeds of dog do prisons usually train as search dogs? (choose as many as you like)

- A. alsatians
- B. poodles
- C. labradors
- D. spaniels

14

Why do prisons use dogs for searching visitors?

- A. they have an excellent sense of smell and can be trained to smell for certain items
- B. the dogs get paid less than staff

15

What are the search dogs trained to search for?

- A. contraband
- B. squeaky toys
- C. treats

16

What will the search dog do if it finds something it has been trained to search for?

- A. sit down
- B. bark
- C. roll over

17

Can you use the toilet in the visit hall?

A. yes

B. no

C. yes, but a prison staff member will need to come with you to open the door and you may be searched again

18

Which of these are usually available in the visit hall?

A. a tea bar or machine selling drinks and snacks

B. games or activities for you to do at your table or in a play space

C. TV or computer games

19

Are you allowed to give the person you're visiting a hug when you see them?

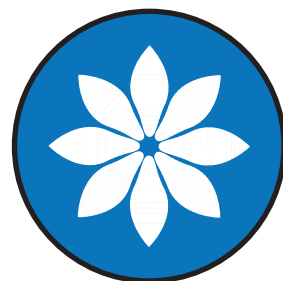
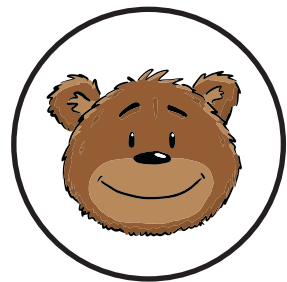
A. yes

B. no

20

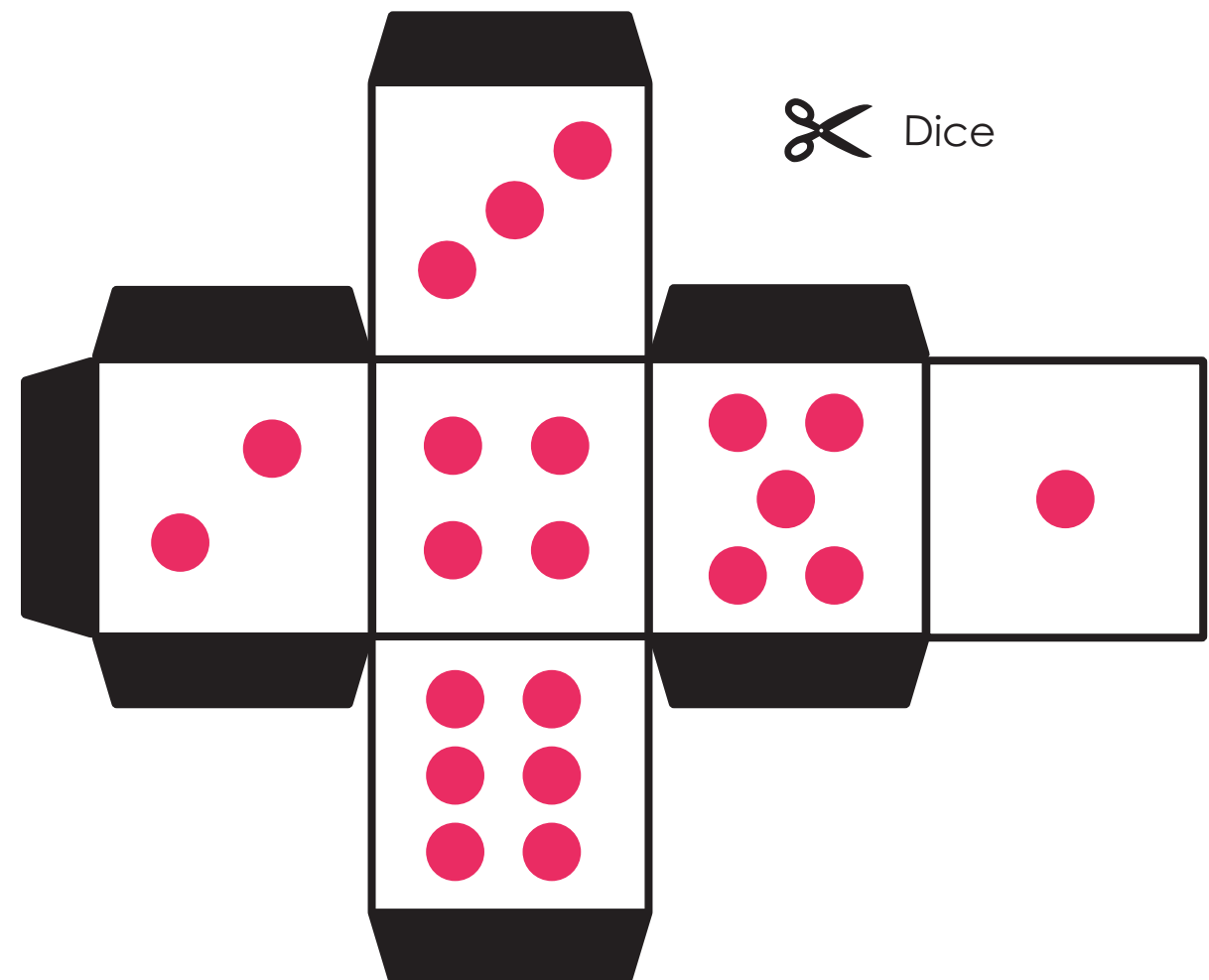
Name two other ways of staying in touch with your loved one in prison?

✂ Cut out each question card



✂ Counters

✂ Dice



My Visit Board Game - answers & further information

1. What ID do children and young people under 18 need to visit someone in prison?

Answer: A. If the child doesn't have either a passport or a birth certificate, a copy of their birth certificate can be purchased for around £15 from the local authority where their birth was registered.

2. Are children and young people under 16 allowed to visit on their own?

Answer: C. In some circumstances where there is no adult willing or able to visit with the young person, support may be available from the prison's family services team. To find out who this is, go to: www.gov.uk/government/collections/prisons-in-england-and-wales

3. If you wanted to give a book to your loved one in prison, how would you get it to them?

Answer: B. Books are searched before being handed to prisoners. Audiobooks can be given in the form of a CD or cassette.

4. Which of the below statements are true?

Answer: ALL

5. How much money can an adult take into a visit?

Answer: D. The amount varies at each prison but is usually around £20-30. For the most up to date guidance contact the family services team at the prison. To find out who this is, go to: www.gov.uk/government/collections/prisons-in-england-and-wales

6. What are the prison staff called that wear uniform and check your ID?

Answer: C. OSGs (Operational Support Grade) keep the prison running. They staff the gate, supervise visitors, monitor CCTV and manage deliveries. They have limited contact with people in prison. Prison officers work directly with prisoners, supporting them and keeping them safe.

7. Which of the below can children and young people not wear into the prison?

Answer: A and B. For the most up-to-date guidance contact the family services team at the prison. To find out who this is, go to: www.gov.uk/government/collections/prisons-in-england-and-wales

8. Which of the below items will you and your family need to leave in a locker?

Answer: A, B and C. Some items such as nappies for babies or medication can be taken in, but for the most up-to-date guidance contact the family services team at the prison.

9. When you go through security, what do you need to put in the tray that goes through the scanner?

Answer: A, B and C. This process is very similar to going through airport security. Staff will support first time visitors and can advise on what to put in the tray.

10. Sometimes you'll be scanned by a member of prison staff with a handheld wand. This will beep if it detects what?

Answer: A. This process is again very similar to airport security.

11. Sometimes a prison staff member will need to search you by patting your arms, legs and torso with their hands. What will they be checking for?

Answer: A. Only female staff will search female visitors.

12. If you have a question about the search or feel worried, who can you talk to?

Answer: D. It's important to encourage the child or young person to tell someone what they're worried about, or - if they already visited - what they found difficult or upsetting.

13. What breeds of dog do prisons usually train as search dogs?

Answer: C and D. Labradors and spaniels are most often used as search dogs due to their excellent sense of smell and ability to be trained. The dogs have a special bond with their trainer and even live with them. Alsations/german shepherds may be seen at the prison but they are used for security purposes rather than search.

14. Why do prisons use dogs for searching visitors?

Answer: A. They have an excellent sense of smell and are very intelligent. They are expensive to train, keep and care for, but are very effective.

15. What are the search dogs searching for?

Answer: A. The dogs are trained to search for drugs, phones, and other contraband (items not allowed in the prison for safety or security reasons).

16. What will the search dog do if it finds something it has been trained to search for?

Answer: A. The dog will sit down and point with its nose to where it believes it's found something. It's then rewarded with a treat or favourite toy!

17. Can you use the toilet in the visit hall?

Answer: C. The child/young person or the adult they're with can ask for them to be escorted. They may be patted down and searched before and after.

18. Which of these are usually available in the visit hall?

Answer: A and B. The prison's family services team will provide toys, games, and activities for children and young people.

19. Are you allowed to give the person you're visiting a hug when you see them?

Answer: A. You can hug on arrival and when saying goodbye. Younger children may be allowed to sit on the prisoner's knee - but this can be checked with the family services team at the prison.

20. Name two other ways of staying in touch with your loved one in prison?

Answer: letter, email, voicemail and video call. More information can be found at www.prisonersfamilies.org/staying-in-touch