

## for Young Children

The Tantrix game is suitable for those aged 8 upwards but the Tantrix Classic and Game Pack 56-tile sets can also be used in a simple but effective way with very young children.

The activities in this leaflet are suitable for children aged from 3 upwards playing on their own or with others. They may also be suitable for those of any age with special educational needs.

The tiles can help young children experiment with pattern creation. The aim is to *have fun* and at the same time develop *spatial discrimination and matching skills*. It is best to start by using 14 tiles which all have the same colour missing so that the same three line colours appear on all of the tiles, which makes matching all touching links easier and more accessible for young children.

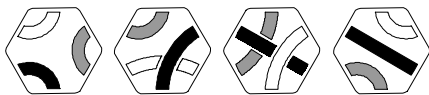
Most of the activities described here can be done with all 56 tiles too, but the fourth line colour in the Tantrix Classic Game and Tantrix Game Pack sets makes some of the activities more difficult.

We recommend that you spend a few minutes experimenting with the tiles yourself, building loops and patterns, before introducing your children. There are two basic types of activities:

- 1) **Free Play** - Children have multiple tiles at their disposal and create any pattern or shape they like.
- 2) **Guided Play** - The exact tiles needed are chosen for the children in advance. They are asked to create a specific shape or pattern. You might give some clues or initial help, e.g. demonstrating how to build loops and patterns. The difficulty can often be increased by requiring the colours on *all* adjoining links (not just those forming the main shape) to match.

So, you can allow children to invent their own activities or you can design challenges for them which suit their level of development.

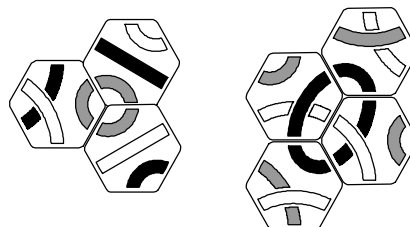
This sheet contains a few ideas for guided play to get you started:



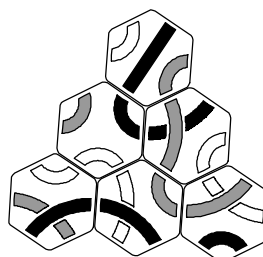
**Describing and locating tiles:** Tantrix tiles can be separated into groups based on combinations of their properties - e.g. all tiles with a straight link, or tiles which have a particular number of corner bends.

Encourage the children to use words to describe the different properties they see.

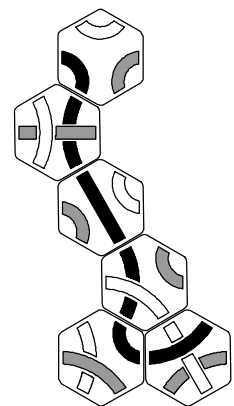
If there are two children, maybe one could describe a tile, the other then trying to locate it.



Small loops



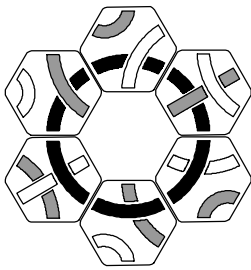
Six-tile pyramid



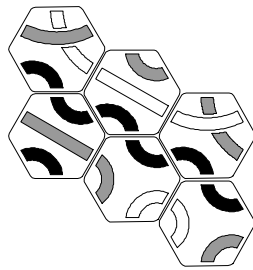
Building a 'train track'

## Possible activities:

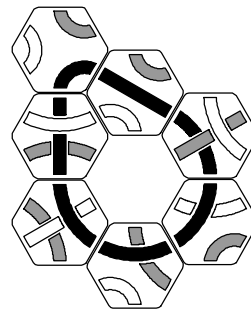
- Free play
- Identifying & grouping tiles
- Matching up colours
- Small symmetrical loops (eg. circles, ovals, rings)
- Medium loops of irregular shape
- Pyramid puzzles
- Continuous lines of one colour
- Building specific shapes (eg. snakes, smiling faces, hearts)
- Double loops & big loops
- Filling three-sided spaces
  
- The rest is up to the imagination !



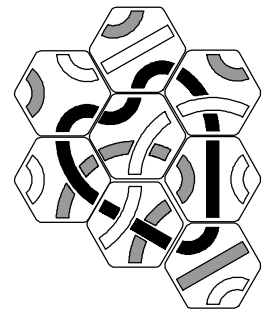
Perfect circle



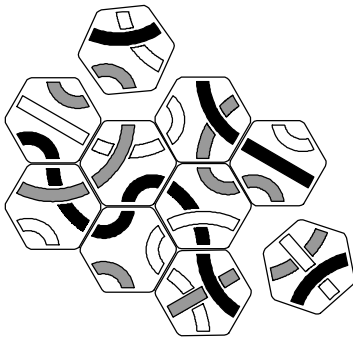
'Snake' line



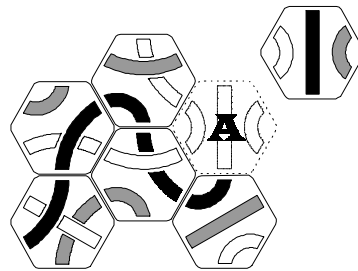
Loop with a hole



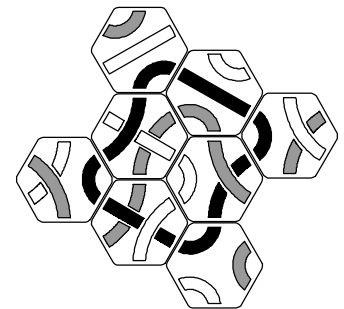
'Love heart' loop



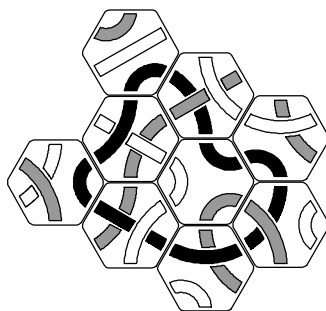
Matching 'spaghetti'



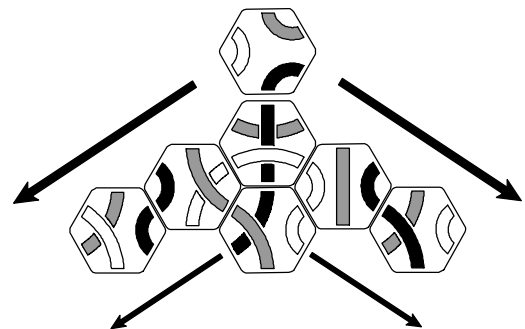
Finding a tile which fits a 3-sided space, e.g. at A



Symmetrical loop



Loop with an irregular shape



Creating, finding and filling multiple 3-sided spaces

## What next?

If in time the children exhaust most of the free and guided play options offered here, you can introduce them to more advanced Tantrix activities:

- **Tantrix Discovery** - A numbered set of 10 tiles which can be used for 10 different loop puzzles, from simple to very challenging. The puzzles are suitable for children from age 6 upwards and for adults.
- **Tantrix Strategy** - Tantrix Classic or Game Pack and the accompanying 50-page activity guides can be used to play the strategy game and for harder puzzles so they can entertain for a lifetime - ages 8-108!
- **Tantrix Online** - Play Tantrix on the Internet - it's free apart from your usual connection charges. You'll meet people of all nationalities and ages. Watch, chat or play a game at [www.tantrix.com](http://www.tantrix.com)
- For more information about Tantrix in the UK or to make suggestions for additional activities for young children with this set, please contact **Tantrix UK Ltd** at:

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... or you can visit the UK Tantrix website at [www.tantrix.co.uk](http://www.tantrix.co.uk)