

Review: **Wooden domino set** Item number: E523127

By: **Otto Zwolsman** Teacher and mathematics specialist

Age: 4-12

Number of players: 1-4

Playing time: Unlimited

Rating

Educative:	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
Fun:	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Differentiation:	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
Challenging:	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Strategy:	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆
Creativity:	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Replay value:	★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Description

The Wooden domino set is a durable game that can be played in many different ways. When children finish building a domino track, then they can release the marble on the track and hope that all dominoes will fall. Children can build virtually any track imaginable, and the different objects make the game challenging and exciting.

Areas of development

The Wooden dominoes set taps into many different skills: fine motor skills, cooperation, judgment and intuition, and creativity.

Fine motor skills. For example, children have to place dominoes in a row without knocking over any of the other dominoes.

Cooperation. Children can also play this game in pairs or groups. Children can even build their own tracks first and combine them into one single track when they finish building.

Judgment and intuition. These are important skills for the Wooden domino set. More specifically, players have to judge how far apart they have to place the dominoes. The dominoes cannot be too close together, but they must still be able to touch each other in order to topple over.

Creativity. Children are challenged to build a creative and exciting track, although they have to make sure that their creations can be combined into a single track.

“It is one of the most popular games in my classroom”

Challenging

This game does not require an introduction, because every child knows how to play it. Children are challenged to use as many dominoes as possible for their track. In fact, there are 500 dominoes in total! I was surprised by the effect of Wooden domino set: it is one of the most popular games in my classroom and children feel naturally challenged to build creative tracks. Many groups of children discussed for over an hour how to place the dominoes, where to put the buffers, and what would be a good distance between the dominoes. Of course, children also try out their domino tracks – this provides them with valuable feedback.

Motor skills

For some children, this game may pose quite a challenge. In fact, they might even give up after a few tries. After a short break, however, most children want to play the game again.

The good thing about this game is that you don't have to wait for the other's turn to end. But you are still playing together! However, many children dislike tidying up after playing. When you do so properly and orderly, then all the objects fit into the box.

Recent studies have reported that underdeveloped motor skills can have a negative effect on a child's performance in school. The Wooden domino set can therefore be a worthy addition to any classroom. It is a game that is both exciting and relaxing. And more importantly, it taps into many essential areas of development.

In conclusion

Have I convinced you yet? Children in my classroom liked the Wooden domino set a lot. In fact, I have to admit that Heutink made a wonderful game. Even better, you can both use it in the classroom and at home. The game is made to last and guarantees years of fun.

“It is a game that is both exciting and relaxing. And more importantly, it taps into many essential areas of development.”

Heutink's reply

We designed the Wooden domino set for children of many ages and in different stages of development. Even the gifted children can have a lot of fun with the game. If you truly want to challenge them, however, then you should give them specific assignments that have an element of time to them. For example, you could ask them to make a marble track where the marble travels for 15 seconds. When they complete this assignment, you could ask them to do a follow-up assignment: “Can you also make the marble travel the same route within 10 seconds?” This stimulates children to explore and learn.