

Pick Up Sticks

Official Rules Guide — Premier Disco Giant Games

2+ Players	31 Sticks per set	6+ Recommended age	10-20 min Average game
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About the Game

A game of steady hands and total concentration — drop a bundle of coloured sticks, then carefully remove them one at a time without disturbing the rest.

What's included: 31 sticks, each 30cm long.

How to Play

- 1 Hold the bundle of sticks upright, then release so they scatter into a random pile.
- 2 Players take turns removing one stick at a time without moving any other stick.
- 3 If any other stick moves or wobbles, the turn ends and passes to the next player.
- 4 Different coloured sticks are worth different points (the black stick is traditionally worth the most).
- 5 Play continues until all sticks are removed; highest total points wins.

A Few Strategy Tips

- **Go for the top of the pile first.** Sticks resting clearly on top are the safest picks.
- **Watch how the pile shifts.** It helps you spot your next safe option as sticks come out.
- **Slow and steady wins.** A careful, controlled pull beats a fast grab every time.

Variations

- **Timed rounds.** Set a limit per turn to keep things moving for a party crowd.
- **Team play.** Alternate turns within a team, pooling points.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many players can play Pick Up Sticks?

Two or more — it works well as a head-to-head game or a bigger group taking turns.

How many sticks are in a set?

31 sticks, each 30cm long.

What happens if I move another stick?

Your turn ends immediately and passes to the next player — the stick you were going for stays where it is.

How is the game scored?

Different coloured sticks are worth different points, with the black stick traditionally worth the most. Whoever has the highest total once all sticks are removed wins.