

TOY & GAME FAIR | Navy Pier trade show exhibits latest thrills

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Last year, Shari Sopourn was trying to find a way to teach her kids about the recent government bailout of financial institutions. In the process, she and her husband, Jordy, created Bailout!, a board game that is a sort of anti-Monopoly.

"It's a comedic parody of the bailout," Sopourn, 40, said. "You have to lose all your money to win."

"Bailout!" was one of the clever new games on display Sunday at the Chicago Toy & Game Fair at Navy Pier.

A trade show open to the public, the fair was overrun with parents and children trying out the new toys and games.

"This is a great place to check out games and see what interests my kids," said his mother, Sanja Noble. "And they're having a great time, too."

With the state of the economy, board games have seen a resurgence in popularity, said Mary Couzin, executive director of the Chicago Toy and Game Group.

"Sales of board games are up 10 to 12 percent, which is huge," money by staying home more and playing together."

Spread out on the floor in the center of the toy fair was a space dedicated to Citiblocs. Children of all ages, including parents, built towers and castles with lightweight wooden pieces that snap together.

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Chicago Toy & Game Fair

Children and their parents got the opportunity Sunday to try out some new toys and games at the Chicago Toy & Game Fair at Navy Pier.

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(John H. White/Sun-Times)

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