**The Color-Matching Memory Game!**

**Ages:** 4+  **Players:** 2-6

**Contents:** 7 mice, 24 chunks of cheese, fabric bag, game board and instructions

**Object:** Be the player with the most cheese at the end of the game. Cheese is won by matching the color in the mouse’s ears to the color of the cheese in the center of the game board.

**Setup:** Place the game board in the center of the table where all players can easily reach. Take 6 of the mice and push them into the mouse holes so that their nose is pointed to the center or “feeding area”. Place the 7th mouse off to the side of the game board. Spin the game board so that the positions of the mice are secret. Finally take the 24 pieces of cheese and put them in the fabric bag.

**Game Play:** The youngest player – without peaking, reaches into the bag, pulls out 3 pieces of cheese and places them in the middle of the game board. The player then takes the 7th (free) mouse and pushes it through a mouse hole of their choice from the outside, thus pushing out one of the hidden mice to the feeding area. Now the color in the ears of the new mouse is visible:

1. If this mouse finds a piece of cheese that matches the color of it’s ears it may “eat” it, i.e. the player puts the piece of cheese in front of themselves creating a winnings pile. The player continues play right away.

2. If the mouse finds multiple pieces of cheese that match it’s ear color, the player collects them all. The player then continues play right away.

3. If the mouse finds no pieces of cheese that match it’s ears, the players turn ends and play passes to the left.

4. If the mouse eats everything in the feeding area, the player’s whose turn it (still) is, reaches into the bag and pulls out 3 new pieces of cheese. These pieces of cheese are placed into the middle just as before, and play continues with the current player.

5. If a golden piece is drawn from the bag the player places it on top of another piece of colored cheese of their choice. The golden piece of cheese can only be eaten together with the colored piece below it.

**Winning:** The game ends when all the pieces of cheese have been eaten. Whoever collected the most cheese is the winner.

**Variant for older players:** Similar to the basic game, three pieces of cheese are placed in the middle. This variant is about “all or nothing”, i.e., you only succeed if you eat all three pieces of cheese in 1 turn. If the player does not succeed in “eating” all three pieces of cheese then nothing is removed from the feeding area. Each successful turn, the player reaches into the bag and puts 3 new pieces of cheese in to the middle. They can then decide whether to continue playing or pass to the player on the left.

**Gold Cheese:** Gold pieces of cheese are placed in the feeding area the same as any other color, but in this variant the player must assign this piece of cheese a color of their choice. This color is announced to all players. In the final count, gold pieces of cheese are worth 2 points.

**Winning:** The game ends when all the pieces of cheese have been eaten. The cheese is scored as follows:
- Each colored piece of cheese is worth 1 point.
- Each golden piece of cheese is worth 2 points.
- Whoever has the most points is the winner.

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**THE SET-UP:**
- Take 6 of the mice and push them into the mouse holes so that their nose is pointed to the feeding area. Place the 7th mouse off to the side of the game board.

**THE COLOR KEY**

**THE ACTION:**
- The player takes the 7th (free) mouse and pushes it through the mouse hole from the outside, thus pushing one of the hidden mice to the feeding area.

**THE CHEESY PRIZE:**
- If this mouse finds a piece of cheese that matches the color it’s ears it may “eat” it. Whoever collects the most cheese is the winner.

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