99 – The Card Game

Materials:

* A standard deck of cards (no Jokers)
* 3 tokens for each player (can be pennies, buttons, spoons, poker chips)
* 3 or more players

How to play:
Players place their three tokens in front of them on the table, and receive three cards from the dealer.
As the play goes around the table, each player puts down one card. The point total starts at zero and each card adds its face value in points (e.g., a 5 is worth five points, a face card is worth 10 points) except for certain cards that have special values or meanings:

* A *4* reverses play (and does not change the total number of points)
* A *9* is a pass (and does not change the total number of points)
* A *10* subtracts 10 points from the total
* A *King* takes the point total to 99 (or keeps it 99 if the total is already 99)
* An *Ace* adds either 1 or 11 points, announced by the player who plays it

After each card is played, the player announces the new total to the table and draws a replacement card. Each player must play a card without sending the total number of points higher than 99. This is very easy in the beginning but play becomes more complex as the total climbs. If a player cannot play a card that keeps the total at or less than 99, that player loses a token and the round ends. The cards are then shuffled and dealt, and the process begins again.

Objective:
The last player with a token remaining is the winner. Players are eliminated when they lose the third token.

Sweeten the pot:
Your children will pay some serious attention to this game if everyone has three pieces of candy in front of them, instead of just tokens. And for the winning player, the windfall of those, say, 15 pieces of candy will be truly amazing.