

theme: transportation

Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

Ride tricycles, big wheels, pull a wagon, etc.

Have someone demonstrate how to put air in the bicycle tires, how the wheels work, etc.

Science Activities:

Talk about gasoline and even the new electric cars! Talk about the dangers of gasoline fumes, safety at the pump, etc.

Boats – float or sink?

Small Motor/Manipulatives:

Make a small ramp and let the children run their little cars up and down the ramp; let them race each other.

Trains that connect to each other or snap into place

Snacks:

- Cookies shaped into form of cars, trucks, boats, trains, bicycles, etc.
- Cut sandwiches with cookie cutters shaped like transportation vehicles....
- Shape bread dough into the shape of a wagon wheel; brush with melted butter and garlic powder before baking—yum!
- Make pizza in the shape of a boat—decorate with toppings
- Tonka fruit snacks

Fingerplays & Songs:

See fingerplay and action rhymes cards; [Cars, Trucks & Trains](#) by Kimbo Educational (Audio CD)

Math Activities:

Make a graph of gasoline prices each day for a week!

Count cars or sort matchbox cars by colors.

Time cars racing each other; use a stop watch.

Count the tires on different modes of transportation.

Weigh cars before racing them in the pinewood derby

Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

- Put up magazine pictures or posters of various forms of transportation. Hang paper airplanes from the ceiling.
- Have a pinewood derby! Make vegetable cars!
- Watch a Thomas the Train, Cars or other transportation documentary-type video (just one during the week!). Hard Hat Harry books are great! He's got one on boats, ships and airplanes.

Dramatic Play:

Railroad engineer's cap, taxi driver's cap, captain's cap; costumes

Books:

We All Go Traveling by Sheena Roberts, Fred Penner, and Siobhan Bell

Big Book of Transportation by DK Publishing

I Wonder Why Planes Have Wings by Christopher Maynard

How Will We Get to the Beach? by Brigitte Luciani and Eve Tharlet

Transportation (Around the World Series) by Margaret C. Hall

Row, Row, Row Your Boat by Annie Kubler

Noah, Build Your Boat by Jeff Kunkel

Boat Book, by Gail Gibbons

The Children's Book of Cars, Trains, Boats and Planes by Kenneth Allen

Ben and the Mysterious Sound by Kevin Bradley Watts

Mr. Putter & Tabby Row the Boat by Cynthia Rylant and Arthur Howard

Richard Scarry's Cars and Trucks from A to Z by Richard Scarry

Trains (Things That Go Board Books) by DK Publishing

Thomas and the Freight Train by W. Rev Awdry and Owain Bell

The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper

Look at Me! My Photo Book of Trains by Chronicle Books and Caterpillar

All Aboard Trains (Reading Railroad Books) by Deborah Harding

My Big Train Book (Priddy Books Big Ideas for Little People) by Roger Priddy

The Best Book of Trains by Richard Balkwill

I've Been Working on the Railroad (A Shaped Board Book on Wheels) by Jim Becker and Andy Mayer

Thomas's ABC Book by W. Rev Awdry

Go, Train, Go! by W. Rev Awdry and Tommy Stubbs

Timmy and Tammy's Train of Thought by Oliver Chin and Heath McPherson

Art:

Glue colored pieces of tissue paper/crepe paper onto cutouts of sailboats to make bright colored sails

Put paint in a shallow pan, run a small car through it, then use the car to make tire tracks on a piece of paper

Using cutouts of the letter "T" and make tire tracks on that

Make a collage of transportation vehicles cut out from magazines

Spatter paint over a stencil of a transportation vehicle; remove stencil to reveal the design on the paper.

Circle Time Activities/Field Trips:

Have pictures of different types of transportation; discuss what each one is called. Sing songs about each one. Who is allowed to drive each one? What do you need to drive a vehicle? How do you get a driver's license?

Where are cars made? Look at different types of cars, car parts; for a field trip, visit an auto parts store or a tire shop. Make arrangements ahead of time for the children's visit.

Have a mechanic visit the class, or visit an auto repair shop.

Visit a boat storage facility or a boat showroom.

Visit a car dealership; have the sales person give them a tour and show them several cars.

Visit a car repair shop. Talk to a mechanic, or have one come visit your class. Demonstrate how to put air in the tires, change a flat, look under the hood, etc.

Read stories about transportation, sing songs, do fingerplays, do flannel board stories, cut-and-tell stories (where you're actually cutting out cars like paper dolls), etc.