

SOCIAL

Water, Sky, Land

Materials Needed: Large piece of paper with blue paper glued on top, green paper glued on bottom (leave middle white) and a darker blue circle shape glued somewhere on the green. The top blue is for SKY, the green for LAND and the darker blue for WATER; transportation theme items and vehicles (small toy cars, horses, airplanes, hot air balloons etc.).

Pass out one transportation theme items to each child to hold. Give each child a turn to tell what item she has and where it is used (Water, Sky or Land) and ask them to place the item where it should go on the paper.

Extension: Instead of just passing out the items try placing them in a bag. Give each child a turn to reach in and choose one. You can also place one item in the bag and as each child reaches in, ask if they can guess what form of transportation it is just by feeling it and not looking in the bag! You can also print out the transportation pictures at the end of the activity plan and have the children tape or glue them to the picture.

Target: taking turns

How We Travel

Materials Needed: Large chart paper; Marker

Prepare in advance a large piece of paper separated by lines into 2 columns, with the left column being not as wide as the right column. Label the chart How We Travel In the right column, draw pictures (or glue on pictures) of different ways the children might travel (car, truck, van, bus, horse, airplane, etc.). Print off pictures of all of the different ways you think you can travel.

Target: sharing ideas

Show and Tell Transportation

Materials Needed: Transportation Theme Toy or vehicle from home from each child. Send a letter home in advance announcing "Transportation Show and Tell Day" to the families.

Ask children to place their Show and Tell item behind their backs. Take turns asking each child to show the item they brought in and encourage them to tell their friends about it.

Note: Some children are not sure what to say! This is a GREAT opportunity to help them to develop their group speaking and social skills. Our goal for Show and Tell is for the children to share information about something of theirs in order to get to know each other better and build confidence when talking in a group. If there is concern about bringing items in from home (such as concerns that it will get lost or broken), rather than ask families to send something in, take the children on a Show and Tell hunt in your classroom and have them choose ONE transportation item from the classroom to bring to share with their friends. Be ready with some questions such as "Does it work in the water? Does it have wheels? Where would you go if you could travel on that?"

Additional Note: Some children will forget to bring in a show and tell, it's inevitable! Encourage that child to choose their favorite transportation item from the classroom.

When it is their turn, in addition to questions about the item itself, ask why they like to play with that one in school. **Target: social skills**

What Has Wheels?

Materials Needed: Large piece of unlined chart paper and a marker.

Draw a large circle on the paper. Tell the children "This is a wheel. What types of transportation vehicles have a wheel or wheels? List all their answers inside the wheel.

Extension: Write down exactly what they say in the wheel surrounded by quotes and then list their name next to it. Example: "My bike has 3 wheels" Extension: Post the list near the art area or writing table and encourage children to paint, draw or sculpt (with playdough or clay) the item they listed!

Variation: Print off pictures of different items with wheels and without wheels so the children can sort them. **Target: sharing ideas**

PHYSICAL

Fine Motor



Traffic Light Cookies

Children mix red, green and yellow food coloring with white icing, and spread the icing onto the three vanilla wafers to make a traffic light. **Target: eye hand coordination**

Train Finger play

This is a choo-choo train (Bend elbows) Puffing down the track (Move arms forward) Now it's going forward (Push arms forward) Now it's going back (Push arms back) Now the bell is ringing (Pretend to ring bell) Now the whistle blows (Hold fist near mouth and pretend to blow) What a lot of noise it makes Everywhere it goes. (Cover ears with hands) **Target: finger manipulation**

Windshield Wiper

Finger play I'm a windshield wiper (bend arm at elbow with fingers pointing up) This is how I go (move arm left and right, pivoting at elbow) Back and forth, back and forth (continue back and forth motion) In the rain and snow. (continue back and forth motion)

Target: finger manipulation

Sponge Painting

Materials needed: soft sponges cut into vehicle and other transportation theme shapes, paint, shallow trays, paper, Optional: clothes pins

Put paint in shallow trays. Put out paper, sponges and the paint and let the children's imaginations take over! You can also clip clothes pins on the backs of the sponges to make it easier for the children to dip them into the paint.

Extension: Provide paper with pre-drawn "roads" wide enough for the sponge vehicles to fit in between. Encourage the children to sponge paint cars on the roads.

Additional Extension: For older preschoolers, encourage them to make an AB or ABC pattern of cars on the roads (blue, yellow, blue, yellow, etc.) or make up their own patterns if you have covered patterns with them! **Target: grasping**

Cloud Painting

Transportation in the Air! **Materials Needed:** Blue paper, cotton balls or pom-poms, clothes pins, white and gray paint. Have the children grab a cotton ball/pompom with the clothes pin and then dip it in paint and make a picture. The children can also glue the cotton balls/ pompoms to the picture. Encourage children to paint clouds in the sky. Will they have storm clouds? White, fluffy clouds?

Extension: Encourage children to cut out their own "in the air" transportation vehicles. Just let them cut paper into their own shape and create their own! Then have them glue their air vehicles in their clouds! **Target: eye hand coordination**

Hot Air Balloons

Materials Needed: Round balloons, watered down glue (or other papier Mache recipe you like), strips of newspaper, colored tissue paper, yarn, colored paper or strawberry baskets

Help children (if needed) to cover balloon with at least one layer of newspaper. It may be easier if you encourage them to completely "paint" the balloon with the glue or mache liquid and then cover with strips of newspaper and then "paint" over the newspaper.

(Preschoolers tend to give up quickly when they have to pick newspaper out of a tray of glue and water. It is a lot of fine motor activity for them all at once.). After a layer is covering balloon, encourage them to place colored tissue paper over the newspaper and re"paint" with glue.

Let dry for several days. Pop balloons (favorite part in our classroom!). Hole punch a hole on each side of the opening of balloon shape. Using yarn, Tie strawberry baskets onto balloon shape (or have children paint paper to make their own baskets and tie them on).

Extension: Hang Hot Air Balloons in classroom. A great story to read before making these is Altuna Baboona or read the story after they are hung up (or both!). Encourage the children to tell a story of where they would go in their hot air balloon!

Additional Extension: Make a class book of the children's hot air balloon stories complete with a picture of them holding their balloon! **Target: grasping**

The Wheels on the Bus. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFHBfFAmcbc>

Target: large muscle co-ordination

Motorboat.

Motorboat, Motorboat go so slow (*set your child in front of you, their feet against yours... hold their hands, and rock back and forth as you sing or have the children do this is pairs*)

Motorboat, Motorboat go so fast (*rock faster!*)

Motorboat, Motorboat step on the gas! (*go really fast!*)

(*Repeat, but this time, end it with "run out of gas" and putter to a stop.*)

Target: balance

Let's Move!

Materials Needed: Toys that represent different modes of travels (or pictures).

Ask the children to all stand up. Tell them you are going to show them different modes of transportation and when you do, they should move like that item. Encourage them to also make the sound that goes with it! Be sure to join in the fun to model this. Example: "Yes! It's an airplane! Let's move like airplanes! Let me hear your best airplane noise! Are they loud or quiet?"

Target: co-ordination

INTELLECTUAL

Language

Down by the Station <https://kidsongs.com/lyrics/down-by-the-station.html>

Target: vocabulary

Drive the Fire Truck. http://wiki.kcls.org/index.php/Hurry,_Hurry_Drive_the_Fire_Truck

Hurry, hurry! Drive the fire truck! Hurry, hurry! Drive the fire truck!

Hurry, hurry! Drive the fire truck! Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding!

Target: repetition

Twinkle, Twinkle Traffic Light

Twinkle, twinkle traffic light

Round the corner shining bright.

Red means stop, green means go,

And yellow means go very slow.

Twinkle, twinkle traffic light

Round the corner shining bright.

Target: rhyming

My Bike

One wheel, two wheels on the ground

My feet make the peddles go round and round

Handle bars help me steer so straight

Down the side walk and out the gate

Target: vocabulary

Cognitive

Sorting Cars. Make cardboard garages (or colored “parking spaces”) for your child to sort cars into by color. Sorting into categories is a great foundational skill for later learning. **Target: sorting**

Train Car Sort. Make (or print) colored train cars, and have your child sort objects by color into the right car. **Target: sorting**

Magnet Car. Draw a road on a paper plate. Make a paper car with a magnet on it. Use a magnet wand under the paper plate to drive the car around. **Target: cause and effect**

Ramp It Up!

Materials Needed: Triangular blocks, flat blocks, transportation theme vehicles with wheels

Show the children how to make ramps for their vehicles. Discuss the distance they go on each ramp. Ask questions to get them thinking such as "I wonder why this car went this far on this ramp but only this far on the other ramp". "I wonder how we can make the car go further? faster? slower?".

Variation: Make two or three different ramps that have different heights (declines). Ask a child to let his vehicle go down the first ramp. Mark where it stops with a piece of tape (masking or painters tape) on the floor/carpet. Then ask same child to let the same vehicle go down the next ramp and mark where it lands. Discuss results. Try this with different vehicles. **Target: cause and effect**

CREATIVE

Build a Bridge

Have the children try and build a bridge between 2 chairs. Let them try different ways using different materials. Some ways will work and some ways will not. **Target: problem solving**



Draw a City. Use a big box your child can climb into, or flatten out a smaller box. Draw

roads and buildings on it. You can also build cardboard tunnels to drive through and bridges to go over. **Target: imagination**

Ramps. Take a flat piece of cardboard. Tilt it by propping on a piece of furniture. Race cars down it. Even better, put a tower of blocks at the bottom to crash the cars into. You can play with angles – the steeper the inclined plane, the faster the car goes. **Target: creativity**

Traffic Lights

Materials Needed: Cardboard egg cartons (in sections of 3); craft sticks; paint; clay
Provide red, yellow and green paint. Place craft stick into bottom. Once painted, place stick into a piece of clay as a base. These are great to use with cars, trucks etc. or in the block area! **Target: decision making**

EMOTIONAL

Vehicles That Color

Materials Needed: crayons, masking tape, small toy vehicles such as cars, paper
Tape 2-3 crayons to the front or back of a toy car. Tape so that the points of the crayons are slightly lower than the bottom of the car. Encourage the children to "drive" the vehicles on paper. Have many of these made in advance...this is a big hit with our preschoolers!

This can also be done with markers and chalk! **Target: self-expression**

Home Made Blocks and Transportation Theme Vehicles

Collect boxes of different sizes (from families or your own recycling from home!) including cereal and other food boxes, gift boxes, etc.

Wrap them in brown and colored paper.

Encourage children to make them into houses (by drawing windows and doors), transportation theme vehicles and boats (by drawing wheels and windows for cars and trucks).

Help the children use them along with the blocks already in your block area to build cities and towns. Don't forget to add an airport or lake! **Target: independence**

Tire Tracks. Drive toy cars on play-dough to make tire tracks. Or, squirt paint on a big piece of paper, and drive cars around. Or, drive them in a sensory bin full of dried rice, grains, or beans. **Target: confidence**



Car Themed Sensory Bin

Materials for the Sensory Bin

- Plastic Box or other container to hold the materials
- Black beans
- Yellow straws
- Scissors
- Red, green, and yellow pom poms
- Toilet paper rolls
- Toy cars

Target: senses



CONSTRUCTION ZONE SENSORY BIN

To set up the construction zone sensory bin, I used these supplies:

- plastic construction vehicles
- pebble rocks
- large plastic bin
- alphabet rocks

Target: senses



Cloud Dough Transportation Sensory Bin



Cloud Dough Sensory Bin

This play recipe is so easy that the kids can make it. I was there to help but he did great. Take 8 cups flour and 1 cup oil. Mix well and then play! **Target: senses**

Frozen Vehicles

<http://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/frozen-car-rescue-science-melting-ice-activity/> **Target: problem solving**



Boat Picture Match (template attached to email)

Target: matching

I've attached 2 Transportation play packs with the email have some activities that you might find useful.

