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Preschool Theme Kits TRAINS



BOX CONTENTS

BOOKS

James and the Red Balloon and other Thomas the Tank Engine stories (Book with CD)

Down by the Station
Will Hillenbrand

Freight Train

Donald Crews

Inside Freight Train

Donald Crews

Seymour Simon's Book of Trains

Seymour Simon

I Love Trains

Philemon Sturges

Train Song

Diane Siebert

A Train Goes Clickety-Clack

Jonathan London

Goodnight Train

June Sobel

DVD

Big Trains, Little Trains

Sandbox Home Videos

TOY

Train Puzzle

ADULT RESOURCE

Where is Thumbkin?: Over 500 Activities to Use with Songs You Already Know

Pam Schiller

ACTIVITY NOTEBOOK

**BEYOND THE KITS -
STORYTIME HANDBOOK**

FOR YOU: a copy of these activities is available in back of this notebook.

Welcome to the *Trains* Theme Kit. Our target age group is 2 to 5 year olds but we have included at least one board book for babies to use. All these books read aloud well, and there are activities, finger plays, and teacher guides to help you. Also, take a look at the general information sheet on the inside cover of this notebook. ENJOY!

Related Activities

-Fun and Games-

MAKE YOUR OWN TRAIN *

Cut out a square of construction paper the same colors as those used in the book, "Freight Train." Line up eight chairs in a row, one behind the other. Give each child a colored square. As you read the book again, the children find the place where the "cars" go and tape the square to the chairs. After the train gets built, children sit on the chairs and move their arms forward and back as the train goes faster and faster. When you read "moving in darkness," turn off the lights, "moving in daylight", turn them back on...

"going... going... gone" the children can wave!

BOX TRAIN **

String together different boxes to create a train. The children can take dolls and stuffed animals for rides in it. Let them take turns being the engineer and conductor (s).



COLOR TRAIN **

Give each child four different colored rectangles of paper to use as "tickets". Tell the children that you are the conductor or the Color Train. They can ride on your train if they have the right colored ticket. When you announce a color, "All aboard the red train!" children with red tickets can hook up behind you and chug around the room. At each circuit change colors and passengers. Let the children take turns acting as conductor.

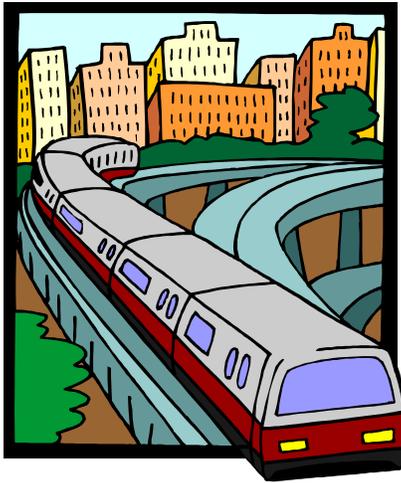
Variations: You could also play this game with numbers or shapes.

WHERE IS THUMBKIN – ADULT RESOURCE

The adult resource in this kit has a chapter *Down by the Station* (p. 94-95) with suggestions for conversation starters, a shoe-box train craft, and dramatic play. Make a math project: place sticky dots on construction paper "train cars". Have the children arrange the cars from smallest number of dots to largest number.

**Activities courtesy of the Early Childhood Office of the Seattle Public Library.*

***Used with permission from King County Library System.*



TRAIN TRIP **

Let the group take a pretend train adventure. Set chairs in two rows leaving a space in between to be the aisle. Make tickets for the conductor to take and serve crackers and juice for a snack. Put two chairs in front of the group for the engineer and fireman. Rotate jobs, so everyone has the fun of having an important job!

GUESS WHAT'S MISSING *

Place any 3 or 4 of the train puzzle pieces on a table or tray. Help the children name them: steam engine, train station, railroad crossing, etc. Cover them with a cloth and have your children close their eyes. Take one away. Ask the children to open their eyes and tell which one is missing. Let children take turns guessing. Then let them take turns removing one or more pieces.

-Fingerplays and Action Rhymes-

CHOO-CHOO TRAIN

This is a choo-choo train
Puffing down the track.
Now it's going forward,
Now it's going back.
Now the bell is ringing,
Now the whistle blows.
What a lot of noise it makes
Everywhere it goes.

*Bend arms at elbows
Rotate forearms in rhythm
Push arms forward, rotating
Pull arms backward, rotating
Pull bell cord with closed fist
Hold fist near mouth and blow
Cover ears with hands
Stretch out arms*

LITTLE RED CABOOSE

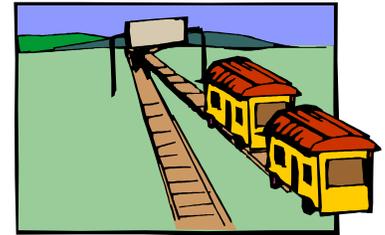
Play this game in a circle or follow the leader style. Start slowly, and speed up faster and faster. Rotate arms at waist, fists in front.

Little red caboose, chug chug chug
Little red caboose, chug chug chug
Little red caboose behind the train,
Train, train.

IF I WERE A TRAIN**

If I were a choo-choo train
I'd run along a track.
I'd blow my whistle- Toot! Toot!
Pretend to pull whistle cord.
And let out steam – SSSH, SSSH!
As I go clickety-clack, clickity-clack,
clickity-clack.

Running down the track chug chug chug
Smoking out the stack chug chug chug
Little red caboose behind the train
Train, train.



LITTLE ENGINE

I had a little engine,
but it wouldn't go.
I had to push and push and push,
But still it wouldn't go.
I had a little motor car,
But it wouldn't go.
I had to wind and wind and wind,
But still it wouldn't go.
I had a little airplane,
My airplane could fly.
I jumped right in, away I flew,
Right into the sky.

Pretend to push hard

Pretend to wind the handle

Run around the room with arms outstretched.

How You Can Help

- Use and return kits promptly so that they are available for others.
- Please check box contents before returning.
- Do not use the book drop. Please return kits inside an open library.