

Introduce your child to the many different types of transport with these great activities that you can share together

Transport is a fascinating theme for young children and offers extensive opportunities for play and craft activities. For example, your child's construction skills can be developed while creating a large model to sit inside, an

awareness of safety can be encouraged while finding out about road signs, and language skills can be reinforced by drawing, writing and talking about a fantasy vehicle, a memorable journey or a favourite car.

The transport song

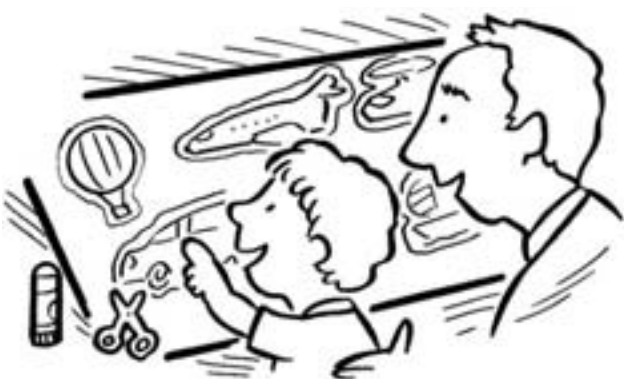
Inspire your child's creative skills by singing together an adapted version of the song 'In and Out the Dusty Bluebells':

In and out go the big red lorries, In and out go the big red lorries, In and out go the big red lorries, Let's all move together.

In and out go the little blue buggies, In and out go the little blue buggies, In and out go the little blue buggies, Let's all move together.

Ask your child to help make up other verses, for example: *In and out go the muddy tractors* or *...the zooming speedboats* or *...the trundling steam trains*.

Top tip: Invite your child to make up actions for each verse.



Transport galore

Encourage your child's observation and language skills by helping them to cut out pictures from magazines showing different forms of transport. Glue the pictures on to a large sheet of paper to create a very busy scene – for example, a traffic jam of bikes, vans, cars and lorries; a sky full of aeroplanes, hot-air balloons and helicopters; and an area of sea covered in boats, yachts, hovercraft and ferries. Talk about the different forms of transport in the scene and play a simple game together called 'Can you see what I can see?'. Take turns to ask each other questions such as: *Can you see what is in front of the hovercraft?* *Can you see what is behind the pink car?* *Can you see what is beside the dumper truck?* and so on.

Top tip: Use a strip of plain wallpaper, or the back of printed wallpaper, to create an extra large scene.

Transport tally

Use the 'Transport tally' photocopiable sheet (see opposite) to help develop your child's observation and counting skills while out and about in the car or during a local walk. Before you go out, help your child to identify each form of transport along the bottom of the sheet. Place the sheet on a clipboard for your child to hold and provide them with a crayon or pencil. Encourage them to tick a box each time they see one of the vehicles. Back at home, help your child to count and compare their results.

Top tip: Encourage awareness of mathematical language by asking questions such as: *How many vans did you see?* *Did you see less than three buses?* *What did you see the most of?*



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Useful books and resources

Bruno and the New Plane by Colin and Jacqui Hawkins (Orchard Books).

Can You Choo Choo Too? by David Wojtowycz (Little Orchard).

Transport Around the World series including *Cars*, *Planes*, *Boats and Ships* and *Bicycles* by Chris Oxlade (Heinemann). Magnetic Wooden Train Set with Wooden Track, available from Early Learning Centre.