

Let's Communicate,
Let's Learn,
Let's Play!



Activity ideas to develop understanding and use of language through the use of

Transport Toys

This leaflet has been designed to support the speech, language and communication needs of children, based around favourite toys, routines and play activities.

Please speak to your child's Speech and Language Therapist for advice and guidance on which activities will be suitable for your child.

These are only some suggested activities – if you and your child use transport toys in a different way, please let us know so that we can try different activities in school.

If you would like some symbol resources or Makaton signs to support your child's communication within any of these activities, please contact us at school where we will be happy to help.

Why use transport toys?

Transport toys such as toy cars and trains are great for:

- Promoting turn-taking, eye-contact and early interaction skills;
- Hand-Eye co-ordination and fine motor skill development;
- Supporting focus and concentration;
- Promoting and encouraging signing.

Transport Toys Vocabulary

Car, bus, train, lorry, track, road, bridge, drive, stop, go, fast, slow, police, fire-engine,

Symbolic sounds: vroom-vroom, beep-beep, choo-choo

Using Transport Toys to Support Early Communication

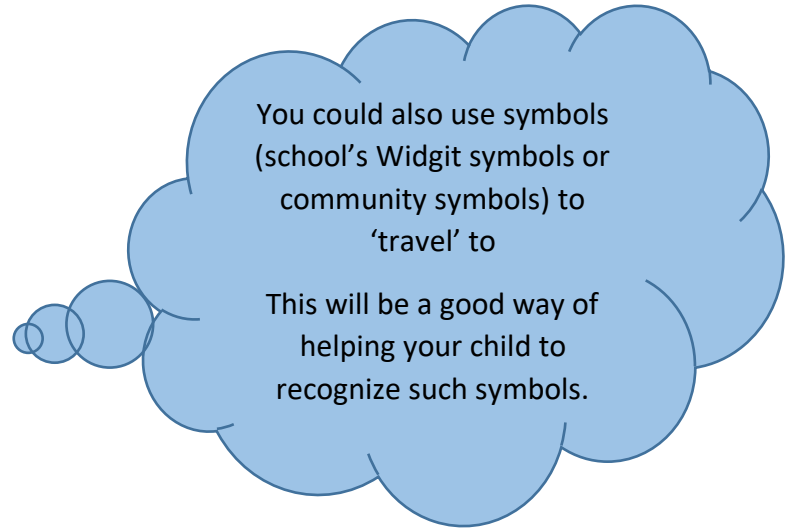
1. Copy your child's play and model symbolic sounds such as beep-beep for your child to copy;
2. Give your child only one car or piece of train track – this will provide an opportunity for them to ask for 'more' or 'help' to build a track, etc.
3. Comment and describe what your child is doing whilst playing e.g. "car driving" – this will help to develop your child's vocabulary.

Go to Town

Using a toy garage or road mat, move cars and trains etc. around modelling and explaining what they are doing and where, e.g. “the train is stopping at the train station” – “All aboard!”

Ask simple “wh” questions related to your child’s play, for example: “where is the car?” and “who works at the hospital?”

Use positional language such as “in”, “on”, “under”, and “next to” to explain where items are. You can also instruct your child on where to take/ put items or ask them questions e.g. “what is the car next to?” and “put the train under the bridge”.



You could also use symbols (school’s Widgeit symbols or community symbols) to ‘travel’ to

This will be a good way of helping your child to recognize such symbols.



Natural Play

Play with the transport toys in sand and mud, etc. This will add an additional sensory opportunity to the play and allow for more vocabulary and symbolic play to occur.

You could then have a “car wash” at the end of the play – “wash the blue car” / “I’m washing the red bus”

Race!

Line up a selection of cars, trains, etc. Prompt your child “Ready, Steady – Go!” and push them away. Talk about which is the winner. This will be a good way of introducing your child to sequential language such as “first, second and last”.

Remember the Green Cross Code

Use toy people to ‘cross the road’. Talk about the rules of crossing a road and help your child to decide when it is safe for the ‘person’ to cross the road. Practicing this skill can help to reinforce the rules for real-life situations.