Things That Go

Children are fascinated with things that go. They can be things with wheels, like cars, trucks, and skateboards. They can be things that fly like airplanes and helicopters. They can be things that go fast like trains, or slower like fishing boats. Learning how things move can be reinforced by reading nonfiction, or information books. There is a lot of math and science that can be learned from exploring things that go. They can be measured, counted, sorted, and weighed.

One great way to explore things that go with your child is to take field trips around your community. You can visit a train depot, airport, or car dealer. You can go to a sporting goods store and look at roller skates and skateboards. You can check out books from the library to take with you for your child to compare pictures with what they see. The important thing is for your child to be able to use as many senses as possible to look, hear, smell and touch. If you take pictures of your experience, your child can create their own book of things that go.

Get out and explore as you and your child learn about things that go! The possibilities are endless.

Featured Book

My Truck is Stuck, by Kevin Lewis

Laugh and count in this hilarious book about a truck that’s accidentally driven into a prairie dog hole. As more vehicles arrive to try and pull it out, children can learn basic numbers, find print in signs, and watch the sneaky prairie dogs empty the dump truck’s load. Full of rhymes, noisy words, and detailed illustrations, kids will be hauling out this book to read again and again.

More books about things that go...

- ABC Drive, by Naomi Howland
- Freight Train, by Donald Crews
- Roadwork, by Sally Sutton
- The Little Engine that Could, by Watty Piper
- The Polar Express, by Chris Van Allsburg
- Dig Dig Digging, by Margaret Mayo
- The Big Book of Things that Go, by DK Publishing
- If You Decide to Go to the Moon, by Faith McNulty
More fun with My Truck is Stuck …

Movin’ and Groovin’… Illustrator Daniel Kirk’s website is full of fun and games, including a page of downloadable songs for your computer or MP3 player. Check out the “My Truck is Stuck” song at: http://danielkirk.com/dankirkmusic.html

Print awareness… As you read the story with your child, point out the words on the signs and vehicles. Talk about what those words tell us. Also point out the different types of punctuation marks, and show how these clues tell us how to read the words with emotion.

Arts and Crafts … Make a vehicle out of a shoe box (or other small box). Cut out wheels from black construction paper and glue them to the sides. Decorate it to look like a car, plane or train.

Action Rhyme

This is the Way the Ladies Ride

This is the way the ladies ride,          Nim, nim, nim, nim.
This is the way the gentlemen ride,     Trim, trim, trim, trim.
This is the way the farmers ride,       Trot, trot, trot, trot.
This is the way the plough-boys ride,  Hobble-di-gee, hobble-di-gee, hobble di-gee.

Song to Sing

Pete the Pilot

To the tune of “Old MacDonald”
(Pretend to be flying by doing the actions)

Pete the pilot has a plane,
Zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom.

And on the plane there
are some wings,
Zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom.

With a zoom, zoom, here,
And a zoom, zoom, there,
Here a zoom, there
a zoom,
Everywhere a
zoom-zoom,

Pete the pilot has a plane,
Zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom.

What your library can do for you…
If your library has a bookmobile, take your child there to check out books. It will be a fun, new experience.