



VOLUME 5 • APRIL 27

# BEACON HEIGHTS AT HOME

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOL FAMILIES



## TAKE A PEEK!

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## TRANSPORTATION

If you're in the habit of pointing out every firetruck on the road or airplane in the sky, then you're probably the parent of a vehicle-obsessed kid. And while we might not totally see their hypnotizing appeal, we can definitely get on board with all the learning that happens with this kind of play! Planes, trains, boats, and automobiles provide fertile ground for imaginative play and learning. Keep reading to find just a few ideas to inspire your own little vehicle-enthusiast!

# MOVEMENT

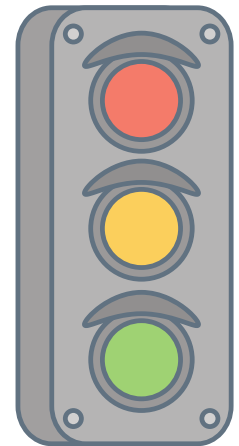
## RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT

Aside from providing movement and a way for children to get their sillies out, red light/green light is a great way for children to learn self-control: when to stop and when to go.

For this game, have one person be the traffic light and say “red light” or “green light.” This could also be done by holding up red and green pieces of paper. Green means “go.” Red means “stop.”

There are several ways to play this game. When the participant doesn’t stop or go appropriately during this game, 1) Keep going; 2) Start the game again; 3) Have them go back to the beginning; or 4) They are out.

This could be done race style, with a start and finish line, in the style of different vehicles (i.e. “this time we will move like airplanes), and/or in a small space with jumping, wiggling, or any other movements your child comes up with!



## CAUTION: OBSTACLES AHEAD!

Make a “road” in your house. What obstacles are on the road? A tunnel? A bridge? A narrow lane? Are there stop signs?

Use tape/paper/crayons/chairs/blankets/toys to create and mark your course. Can you go through your course as a car? An airplane? A boat? A motorcycle?

# ART & DRAMATIC PLAY

## PASSPORT TO PLAY

We might not be able to travel right now, but that can't stop our imaginations!

Print and fold our attached passport along the lines so it opens up like a book. Then help your child fill in the details. If you have a passport of your own, now would be a great time to dig it out and show it off!

Cut out the "tickets" and "stamps" on the second page. Your child can fill in the blank stamps with other places she might like to visit, and glue or tape the destinations in her passport.

Try building a plane or a train with chairs or pillows. A few questions can often help prompt imaginative play for reluctant little ones: Where are you going? Do you need a suitcase? What will you pack? Where will you stay when you get there? Will you bring me back a souvenir?

Bon Voyage!



## PAINTING WITH CARS

This activity is exactly as it sounds! Gather up those wheeled toys, some paint and your canvas of choice. You could use old cardboard, paper, poster board, scrap wood, etc.. A longer canvas would provide more room for your child to "drive" their cars. Roll the automobiles through your paint color of choice then onto your canvas. If the weather is nice; consider taking this fun outside! Painting outdoors gets you and your child in the fresh air and reduces the amount of clean up. Garden hoses can be a parent's best friend! :)



# ART & DRAMATIC PLAY

## CAR WASH

The wonderful thing about dramatic play is it can easily be molded to perfectly fit the parameters and needs of you and your child. You don't always need to follow the outline of the idea exactly or have every single one of the suggested materials. Make it work for you! Here are just a few examples of how you can play Car Wash!

### OUTDOORS WET WATER FUN!

If you did the painting with cars activity; this is a great followup! Fill up a container with soapy water and let your child have fun cleaning their toys! Once they're nice and clean, roll them around in the dirt and start all over! :)

#### Items you can use:

- Toy cars
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Baby pool/ Tupperware/ Old storage bin/ Large mixing bowl etc. filled with soapy water
- Cups
- Measuring spoons
- Toothbrushes
- Basting brush from the kitchen
- Soap
- Sponges

### PRODUCTIVE PLAY

Kids LOVE a job! Accomplishing a task that helps others makes them feel proud and needed! And hey, if something gets cleaned in the process, win-win! So how about making a real life car wash at home?

#### Items you can use:

- Your vehicle
- Bucket of soapy water
- Sponges
- Hose

*\*\*Beacon Heights Preschool is not liable for any unintentional "washing" of siblings, pets or parents\*\**



### INDOOR DRAMATIC PLAY

Turn an old box into a car using paper plates or cardboard for the four wheels and a steering wheel. Let your child decorate it. Then take old, clear bottles from the recycling bin, remove the labels and clean them out. Syrup bottles, pop or juice bottles, dish soap containers, etc. will all work well. Once cleaned, fill half way full with water. Then use food coloring to make the liquid whatever color you want. Seal the lid back on with hot glue or super glue and Voila! You have a car wash dramatic play accessory. Is it wax to make the car shine? Or soap to get it clean? Make as many as you want! Old rags, sponges, towels and buckets are excellent additions to the car wash! Now turn up some "Car Wash" by Rose Royce and have some fun!

# MATH & SCIENCE

## RAMPS, INCLINES & BRIDGES—OH MY!

There are so many fun things you can build to drive your cars on! Can you make a bridge out of materials found around your house? Place two kitchen chairs a foot apart and see what your child comes up with to create a path between the two. How else can you make a bridge? You can make tunnels for your cars by taking a piece of paper and folding over about 1/2 an inch on parallel sides of the paper. Tape both the folded sides to a surface to create a U-shape of a tunnel. You and your child can make an incline by taking any flat surface and propping it up at an angle onto any higher surface. Cardboard propped against a couch, on the stairs or against a chair will make a fast and fun racetrack. Want to expand on this fun? How about a race! Gather an even number cars and have your child "name" them. Then fill the names in on a bracket you create (or use the one provided). Have the cars race two at a time until its narrowed down to the fastest of all the cars! Then send us a picture of your child and their fastest car!



## IF IT GOES... WHERE DOES IT GO?

Have your child join you in locating all the toys that go! Planes, trains, buses, boats, motorcycles, etc. Toss them all together and assist your child in sorting! Which toys fly in the air? Which ones travel by water? And which toys stay on land? Can you and your child name some of the modes of transportation you may not have in the home? Hot air balloons? Motor homes? Submarines? Rockets? etc...



# MATH & SCIENCE

## BUILD A BOAT

Can you make a boat that really floats?



### Materials:

- Foil
- Water source (bathtub, sink, bowl, tray...)
- Weight (rocks, pennies, waterproof toys...)

### Process:

1. Give your child a piece of foil and let them experiment with different boat designs.
2. Place boats in water to see if they float
3. Add weight for an extra challenge (and extra fun!). *How many hatchimals can your boat hold? How many pennies? Could it get these rocks all the way across the tub?*

## MAP MAKING

At preschool this year, children were very into making maps!  
There are so many kinds of maps to make!

### Some ideas:

- A map to somewhere the child would like to go.
  - How would you get there? By foot? Flying in an airplane? In a boat? On a train?
  - What route would you take?
  - What would you see on the way there?
- A map of the house.
  - What rooms are in the house?
  - What do these rooms have in them?
  - Do you have hallways? Doorways?
- A map of the neighborhood or city
  - What landmarks are there?
  - What buildings/parks does your child recognize?
- A trail map
  - To where are you hiking? A park? A beach? A picnic area?
  - What would you see on your hike? A river? A pond? Plants? Flowers? Trees? A forest? A meadow?
  - What landforms would you hike on/around? A mountain? Valley?



Explore maps of the world, the country, the state, and the city. Talk with your child about how the world is really big, the United States is just one country in the world, Indiana is one of fifty states in the United States, and Fort Wayne is just one city in Indiana.

Point out where we/you live in the world, in the U.S., in Indiana, in Fort Wayne.

Point out other places with which your child is familiar.





# MATH & SCIENCE

## PAPER AIRPLANES

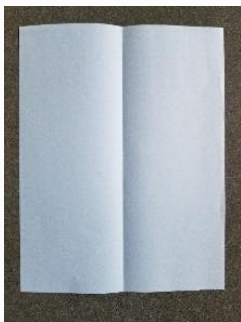
### Materials:

- Any rectangular piece of paper!



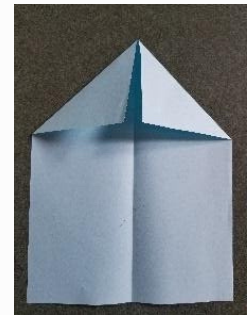
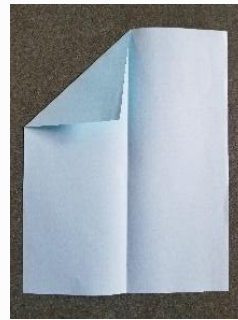
1

Fold the paper in half the long way and open back up.



2

Fold the two top corners down to the center line.



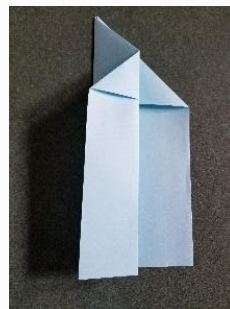
3

Fold the paper along the center crease.



4

Fold down the wings (any way you like!).



5

Decorate and fly your airplane!



Measure how far your airplane goes! Experiment with different weights and sizes of paper. Try different ways of folding. Do these different airplanes go faster or slower? Do they fly for longer or shorter distances? Do they travel in a straight line or in loops?

6

# LITERACY

Transportation songs and stories are on the site...Remember, you can always re-watch your favorites from past weeks!

Go to: [kidlitcrafts.net/beaconheights-videos](http://kidlitcrafts.net/beaconheights-videos)

Password: [beaconheightsfamily](#)

## I WANNA RIDE IN A CAR

I wanna ride in a car, car  
I wanna ride in a car, car  
I wanna ride in a car, car  
Vroom, vroom, vroom.

I wanna ride in an airplane...zoom, zoom, zoom.  
I wanna ride in a boat, boat... paddle, paddle, paddle.  
I wanna ride in a train, train...chuga, chuga, choo, choo!

*What other vehicles can you ride on/in?*



## LITTLE RED CABOOSE

Little red caboose, chug, chug, chug  
Little red caboose, chug, chug, chug  
Little red caboose behind the train, train, train,  
Smokestack on your back, back, back, back  
Coming 'round the track, track, track, track  
Little red caboose behind the train

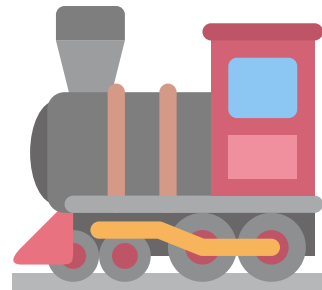




# LITERACY

## DOWN BY THE STATION

Down by the station, early in the morning  
See the little puffer bellies all in a row  
See the engine driver pulling on the handle  
Puff, puff! Toot, toot!  
Off we go!



## SUBETE AL AUTO DE LA RISA

(Courtesy of our friends, Cote and Kelsie, of Musical Conexion!)

Subete al auto de la risa  
Subete a la moto del amor  
Subete al bote de la fantasia  
Subete al tren del amor

Que hace chiqui, Que hace chaca  
Que hace chiqui, chiqui, chiqui, chiqui, chaca  
Que hace chiqui, Que hace chaca  
Que hace chiqui, chiqui, chiqui, chiqui, chaca



**Musical Conexion**



### Translation:

Get in the car of laughter  
Get in the motorcycle of love  
Get in the boat of fantasy  
Get in the train of love

That goes chiqui chaca  
(similar to chugga, chugga, choo choo!)





# LAST WEEK'S FUN

## EARTH DAY



Email [anna@beaconheights.net](mailto:anna@beaconheights.net) with pictures of your transportation week fun to be featured in our next newsletter!