

Transportation Lesson: Take a Boat or Take a Train!

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Target Grade: Pre-Kindergarten (ages 4-6 years)

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, SWBAT (students will be able to):

1. Identify the shapes of at least 4 signs
2. Recognize print in their environment and explain what print/picture means (example: stores, bank, post office, restaurants, etc.)
3. Explain the purpose of a map
4. Describe 8 modes of transportation, such as: cars, buses, planes, taxis, trolley cars, bicycles, horse & buggy, trains, boat/ship
5. Define each transportation vocabulary word: map, speed limit, U-Turn, transportation, highway, etc.

Materials Needed:

- Different types of maps (city, highway, rail, subway)
- 10 Block Play Traffic Signs (Lakeshore Learning item # RJ10 \$29.99, set of 10 wooden road signs; 7.5" high)
- Approximately 15 toy cars, busses, trains, etc.
- Approximately 12 pieces of various colored construction paper
- Enough chalk, pencils, crayons, etc. for all of the children to use

Vocabulary:

- Highway map
- City map
- Shapes (rectangle, circle, square, hexagon, diamond, etc.) used in traffic signs
- Speed Limit
- Traffic light (explain red, yellow, green lights)
- Transportation
- Modes of transportation

Attention-Getter

Tell students to gather into a circle. Tell them that they each can choose to be any type of transportation vehicle---call out a mode and have students raise their hand if that is their choice. Come up with appropriate motions for each transportation mode, i.e. planes will have arms (wings) extended, trains will chug about and blow train whistle, cars will zip here and there, etc. When you say "go," everyone starts moving. After 30 seconds, clap to get students attention and instruct all students to sit down wherever they are. Ask them what happened? There were lots of crashes, because there was no transportation management/maps that told the vehicles where to travel, how fast, when to stop, whether to travel by road or rail, etc.

Introduction

Today, we are going to learn about T-R-A-N-S-P-O-R-T-A-T-I-O-N. Let's say it together.

Ask the students to think about what types of transportation they use:

- How do you get to school in the morning?
- What transportation signs do you see on your way to school? If prompting is needed, ask: Do you see a stop sign? Yield? Curve? Slow? 25 MPH? School sign? One Way sign?
- What are some different ways that people can go places? *Bus, train, plane, boat, taxi, car, subway, trolley, bike*

Sing A Song

Children will listen to the teacher sing the Transportation Song (below) and then sing along with the teacher, *making motions for each of the different types of transportation.*

Transportation Song

(to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

Take a bus
Or take a train
Take a boat
Or take a plane
Take a taxi
Take a car
Maybe near or maybe far
Take a rocket to the moon
But be sure to come back soon!

Make A Map

Teacher will show children different types of maps (city, highway, rail, subway) and explain that the purpose of maps is to help people travel from one place to another using a specific mode of transportation-- car, train, subway, etc. Children will be provided with a large sheet of 11"x17" paper or newsprint page, pencils, crayons, and traffic toy signs. Children will work as a small group (≈ 4 students per group) to create a map of their city/town, that shows houses, businesses (ex. grocery store), roads, school, park, airport, train station, and some wooden traffic signs. Children will have time to explore playing with toy cars on their map.

The teacher will ask questions such as:

- What's the *speed limit* on that road?
- What *shapes* are the Stop sign/bicycle sign/One Way sign?
- Is your house on the *map*?
- Is there a bank, grocery store, hardware store, doctor's office, gas station on your *map*?

Children will sing the Transportation Song again.

Assessment:

Teacher will ask students to:

- Define new vocabulary words
- List 8 different forms of transportation
- Identify the shapes of 4 different signs
- Explain the purpose of a map

The next day, have children draw a smaller map of their town on 8"x11" paper and label.

Clean Up:

Children will put away supplies. Teacher will hang maps on the wall.

Making A Map: Preschool Rubric

Teacher Name: _____

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	3	2	1	0
Roads	Map includes at least 3 roads and an intersection.	Map includes at least 2 roads and an intersection.	Map includes at least 1 road.	Map does not include a road.
Houses	Map includes at least 2 houses with a rectangular shape.	Map includes at least 1 house with a rectangular shape.	Map includes at least 1 house with no distinguishable shape.	Map does not include a house.
Businesses	Map includes at least 2 businesses with a rectangular shape.	Map includes at least 1 business with a rectangular shape.	Map includes at least 1 business with no distinguishable shape.	Map does not include a business.
Traffic Signs	Map includes at least 3 signs described by the child.	Map includes at least 2 signs described by the child.	Map includes at least 1 sign described by the child.	Map does not include a traffic sign.
Modes of Transportation	Child is able to describe 3 modes of transportation that may be used on the map.	Child is able to describe 2 modes of transportation that may be used on the map.	Child is able to describe 1 mode of transportation that may be used on the map.	Child is not able to describe modes of transportation that may be used on the map.