

We Skoolhouse



Ready-Made Curriculum: Things That Go!



A Practical Guide for Exploration

Each unit offers a suggested flow of experiences designed to support deep, meaningful learning through play. You'll notice intentional repetition—this is purposeful. Repeating activities builds memory, mastery, confidence, attention, and focus, forming the foundation for long-term learning.

The experiences are open-ended & process-driven, focusing on how children learn rather than what they produce. This allows for a range of learning styles & encourages exploration at each child's unique pace.

Flexibility Matters

Each unit includes a suggested daily activity guide to support your planning—but it's not meant to be followed rigidly or completed in a set order:

- **Follow the children's lead:** If they're deeply engaged, slow down. If interest fades, it's okay to pause and return later. Some children need time to warm up to new ideas—don't move on too quickly. Repeating an invitation over several days can spark richer engagement.
- **Move at your own pace:** Stretch a week into two, repeat activities as long as needed, and allow units to grow over time.
- **Revisit, don't rush:** There's no need to introduce a new unit each month. Returning to a familiar concept—like revisiting water after exploring texture or paint—deepens understanding and strengthens memory. Revisiting isn't starting over—it's going further.

This guide is about making space for curiosity, experimentation, and meaningful learning. Use it as a springboard—trust yourself, trust the children, and allow learning to unfold naturally.



Unit: Things That Go!

Toddlers are naturally drawn to movement. This unit honors that innate drive by offering materials and invitations that allow children to push, pull, roll, drop, and explore how things move. These experiences encourage self-directed discovery, foster curiosity, & build foundational understanding of speed and force.

Domain	How It Supports Development
Physical	Develops gross motor coordination through pushing, pulling, and racing vehicles. Fine motor skills strengthen through grasping wheels, lifting ramps, and manipulating toy parts.
Cognitive	Enhances problem-solving and experimentation as toddlers build ramps, test speed, and discover friction or incline effects. Early physics and engineering concepts emerge through repeated testing.
Language	Sparks functional vocabulary ("fast," "crash," "uphill") and promotes early sentence structure through vehicle play. Songs and rhymes about transportation support rhythmic and expressive language.
Social-Emotional	Encourages parallel and cooperative play, including turn-taking and shared storytelling. Reenacting real-world transportation experiences also supports emotional processing and imaginative role-play.

Unit: Things That Go!

Focus Materials: Cardboard tubes, paper, toy vehicles, boxes, balls, paint, wheels, wagons

Books: Freight Train by Donald Crews, Go, Dogs, Go! by P.D. Eastman

Songs: "The Wheels on the Bus," & "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes"

Vocabulary: Car, truck, bus, train, airplane, boat, bike, wheel, tire, engine, horn, siren, track, crash, tunnel, ramp, push, pull, roll, fast, slow

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Ramp Play & Rolling Provocations	Ramp Play & Rolling Provocations	Vehicle Tracks in Paint	Vehicle Tracks in Paint	Ramp Play & Rolling Provocations
Week 2	Rolling & Spinning Invitations	Vehicle Tracks in Paint	Rolling & Spinning Invitations	Drop & Roll Exploration	Drop & Roll Exploration
Week 3	Big Box Vehicle Play	Big Box Vehicle Play	Ramp Play & Rolling Provocations	Rolling & Spinning Invitations	Bodies in Motion: Mark-Making
Week 4	Bodies in Motion: Mark-Making	Drop & Roll Exploration	Big Box Vehicle Play	Big Box Vehicle Play	Vehicle Tracks in Paint

Unit: Things That Go!

Suggested Activities

- **Ramp Play & Rolling Provocations:** Offer ramps at various angles with balls and vehicles. Let children roll, drop, and test how objects move. They begin to build theories about speed, gravity, and force.
- **Vehicle Tracks in Paint:** Welcome children to dip wheels in paint and invite children to drive across large sheets of paper. They explore texture, pattern, and motion through process-based mark-making.
- **Drop & Roll Exploration:** Set up vertical tubes or guttering where toddlers can drop balls or pom-poms and watch them reappear. Adds wonder and builds understanding of trajectory and cause/effect.
- **Rolling & Spinning Invitations:** Offer loose wheels, paper towel rolls, tops, and turntables. Toddlers explore spinning, rotating, and moving materials with their hands or full bodies.
- **Big Box Vehicle Play:** Transform large boxes into vehicles with open-ended materials (crayons, bottle caps, ropes). Toddlers crawl in, decorate, & pretend—blending art, gross motor, & imagination.
- **Bodies in Motion: Marking Making:** Tape a large sheet of butcher paper to the floor and invite toddlers to move across it using their bodies and tools that leave marks. Offer chalk, charcoal, rollers, or paint-covered sponges. Children might crawl, slide, stomp, or roll toy cars while holding materials—leaving behind traces of movement.



Unit: Things That Go!

Alternatives and Extensions:

Explore these simple variations to extend play, supporting repetition, variety, and deeper sensory learning:

- **Wind-Powered Play:** Offer straws, pinwheels, scarves, feathers, and lightweight balls. Toddlers blow through straws or run with scarves outdoors to watch materials move through air. A gentle, sensory-rich way to explore force and direction.
- **Tunnel Crawls & Object Chases:** Set up crawling tunnels, long cardboard boxes, or draped fabric pathways. Roll balls or cars through for toddlers to chase or follow. Builds spatial awareness, coordination, and full-body engagement.
- **Rolling to the Rhythm:** Play upbeat songs with a steady beat and invite toddlers to roll vehicles or balls in rhythm. Add shakers or drums to tap along, or encourage riding & pushing toys to the music. A playful way to connect sound and motion.
- **Push & Pull Sensory Trails:** Lay out ropes, crates, wagons, or bins on wheels. Toddlers push or pull across different surfaces—grass, rugs, ramps—experiencing resistance, texture, & effort.
- **Vehicle Workshop:** Offer loose parts like wheels, boxes, tubes, and lids for toddlers to build their own rolling creations. They explore how parts fit and move—designing, testing, and rebuilding through open-ended play.

