



# Learning at Home:

THINGS THAT GO





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## Learning at Home: Things That Go

Introducing *Things That Go* activities at home can help your child build English language skills while getting ready for kindergarten. *Things That Go* includes learning the words for different vehicles, the parts that help them go, and the places they go. Along with words for *Things That Go*, your child will learn directional words such as above, below, up, and down.

While learning these words, your child will also be introduced to the ideas and concepts behind *Things That Go*. The home activities will help you and your child learn about Things That Go, improve your child's English language, and help your child get ready for kindergarten. You are your child's first teacher!

To learn more about *Things That Go*, take a look at our storybook suggestions. Find a book you like, and have fun!



## Make Believe Road Trip

Take a road trip without leaving your home! Get two or three large wide cardboard boxes to make a “car”. You and your child can add scraps of cardboard to make a license plate, a paper plate for a steering wheel, and even some stuffed animals or dolls for companions. Pretend where you would like to go! Are you going to visit family? Or taking a road trip to an amusement park or a museum? You could also use boxes to make railway cars for a train, or try lining up dining room chairs instead. Have fun as you imagine your special adventure!



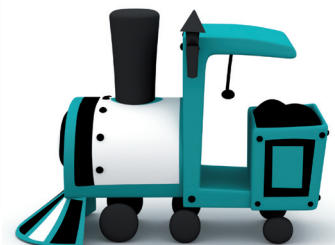
## Rainy Day Collage

Spend a rainy day making a Things That Go collage. Find some old magazines, some child-proof scissors, some glue sticks, and paper. You and your child can look for pictures of cars, trains, planes, boats, and scooters. Make a big pile in the middle of the table or floor, and then sort through to find different types of Things That Go! You and your child can make collages of each vehicle or combine them all together. Get creative! Ask what your child wants to do with the collage.



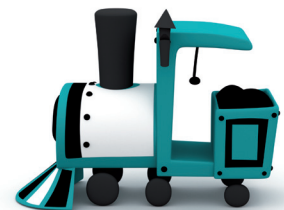
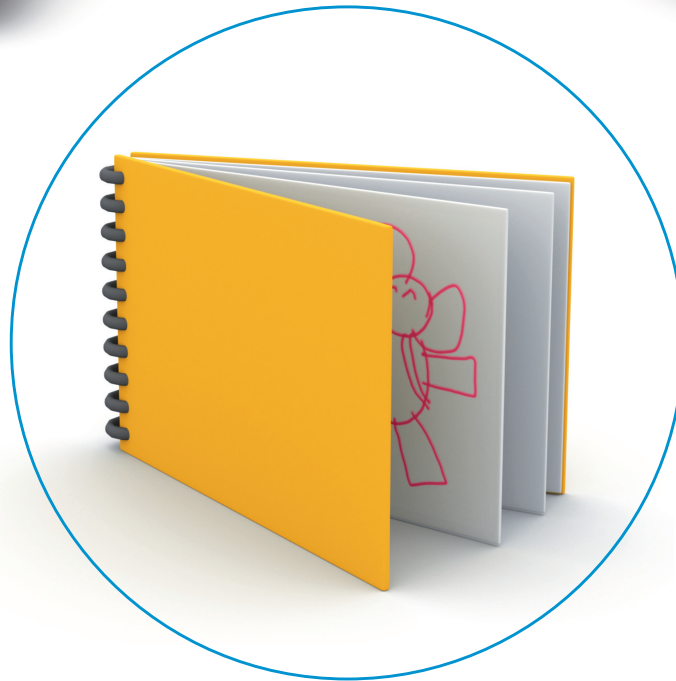
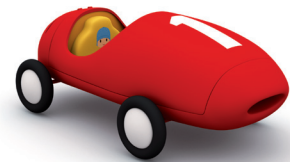
## Getting Around Town

Talk with your child about how you get around as a family. Do you drive a car or ride a scooter? Do you walk, or take the bus or train if you live in the city? Or maybe you take a ferryboat across the river or a motorboat across a lake to get where you are going? With some crayons and paper, ask your child to draw a picture of the way your family gets around. Then write down what your child tells you to make your own special Things That Go mini-book.



# Make and Read Transportation Books

Fold a piece of paper in half to make a 4-page book. Your child can draw one of his or her favorite vehicles on each page. Choose from car, scooter, boat, train or plane. Write the name of each object under the picture. Read the book with your child by having him or her tell you the story.



## Neighborhood Walk

Explore your neighborhood by walking and talking about all the different cars you see! Talk about sizes, colors, and different types: trucks, jeeps, SUVs, Volkswagen Beetles, etc. Ask your child how else people might get themselves where they are going. People might use a bus, scooter, bicycle, skateboard, or just walk. Have your child describe Things That Go in your neighborhood to help build their English language and understanding.



## Fun at the Playground

Have a fun day at the playground using directional words! Slide down the slide, and then walk under it. Swing high up in the sky and come down. Run around the climbing structure before you climb up and down. Use these words with your child as you talk about position, location, and which directions you are going. You can even play a “follow the leader” game with your child, using those words and acting them out.



## Finding the Hidden Object or Treasure

Talk with your child about why we need directions: we use them to get where we are going, or to find something. What happens if we can't tell someone how to get where they want to go, or find something they need? Tell your child to close his or her eyes while you hide an object. Then, once your child's eyes are open, give directions to find the special treasure by using as many positional and directional words as you can: above, under, over, around, behind, between, and through. Include which way you will go and how far, too! Then switch and let your child have a turn giving directions.



## Setting the Table for Dinner

Your child can help you put out plates, forks, knives, spoons, and drinking cups.

Talk to your child about the placement of these items. For example, put the glass in front of the plate, the fork and knife next to the plate and under the napkin, and the bowl of food in the middle of the table.



## Books About Things That Go

### **A Day at the Airport** by Richard Scarry

Sally, Huckle and Lowly are supposed to go sailing with Huckle and Sally's father, but it starts to rain. Father says they will have to stay inside and play, but their friend Rudolf Von Flugel saves the day when he picks the kids up in his airplane-car and takes them to the airport for a fun day of sightseeing!

### **Cars and Trucks and Things That Go** by Richard Scarry

In this collection, Huck takes flying lessons. We learn how planes and birds fly, the cat family goes to an air show, and Wolfgang Wolf, Benny Baboon and Harry Hyena take a trip to the moon in their own rocket.

### **Busy Boats** by Tony Mitton and Ant Parker

Other books in the series include terrific trains, planes, trucks, sailboats, rowboats, ferry boats and speed boats: find them all and discover how they work. Take a cruise on an ocean liner, in a fun rhyming journey.

## Books About Directional Words

### **Rosie's Walk** by Pat Hutchins

Rosie the hen leaves her chicken coop for a stroll around the barnyard, traveling over, under, and around things, without realizing that a sly fox is following her.

### **Jonathan and His Mommy** by Irene Smalls

Spend the day walking through the city with Jonathan and his mommy as they play games, sing, act silly, and have a good time with each other. Explore the different ways they walked from zig zagging to giant steps and reggae steps to crisscross and backwards steps. You and your child can try it too!

### **Chugga Chugga Choo Choo** by Kevin Lewis

Kids love trains! A child's playroom is brought to life. Toys bustle about to make sure the steam engine is loaded with freight and finds its way through the country, around the mountains, into tunnels and across the river to the city.

### **The Three Billy Goats Gruff** by Paul Galdone

This classic story of goats trip-trapping over the troll's bridge uses position or directional words, as the billy goats trip-trap over the bridge and the troll maintains his posture under the bridge. Try acting it out too!



For more information, visit [www.earlylearningcollaborative.org](http://www.earlylearningcollaborative.org)

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