Transportation Theme

During our Transportation Unit, we discovered the ways we travel, how vehicles move and what vehicles move. In anticipation of our upcoming Whole School Water Unit, we also focused on water vehicles.

We began our unit by defining transportation as “moving people or things from one place to another”. We graphed the “ways we come to school”. The friends identified their mode of transportation and added it to the graph. We discussed different ways to travel including by land, air, water or rail. Some of the books that enhanced our learning about the ways we travel included, Things That Go by Anne Rockwell, Bear on a Bike by Stella Blackstone, Here Comes Grandma by Janet Lord and How Will We Get to the Beach by Brigitte Luciani.

Next, we explored how vehicles move. Our discussions included wheels, propellers, wings, sails and people. Books that helped us learn about how vehicles move included, Wings, Wheels and Sails by Bobbie Kalman and That’s How by Christoph Niemann. We identified common traffic safety signs. We created stop signs by cutting the octagon shape, writing the word STOP and painting it red. We reviewed the meaning of the colors on a traffic light as we created our own traffic light.

Freight Trains by Peter Brady, Busy Boats by Susan Steggall, and The Three Little Rigs by David Gordon described what vehicles move. We created name trains where each letter in our name was a freight car. Transportation Bingo helped review the names of the vehicles and identify the jobs vehicles perform.

Water vehicles such as sail boats, submarines, and ships added to our unit as we focused on these vehicles during our last week. The friends created boats using various shapes. We experimented with, “what makes a good boat?” as the friends independently constructed boats using materials found in the classroom and tested them in water to discover the answer. The friends practiced ABC patterning using pictures of a sailboat, a submarine, and a ship.
Dramatic Play during our Transportation Theme

Our Dramatic play area was changed weekly to enhance our unit. The friends explored various vehicles to extend their learning.

Fire Station

The Fire Station included a fire truck, hoses, firefighter jackets and hats, walkie talkies and computer keyboards. The friends practiced the sequence of events that happen during a fire call. They received the fire call, put on their equipment, drove to the fire and put out the fire using their equipment. Fires were popping up all over the school, but The Children’s School firefighters were quick to respond! This experience offered the opportunity to discuss occupations that require vehicles such as firefighters, police officers, garbage collectors, and construction workers.

DMV

The Children’s School Department of Motor Vehicles was open for business as the children were required to take a driver’s test around an outlined road and cones on the Green Room Floor. The friends stepped into their cars and drove them around cones, curves, bends and lines. As they successfully completed their test, they received their license photo and wrote their name on their license. As the week progressed, the friends would show their license to a teacher before driving a vehicle.

Submarine

During our focus on water vehicles, a submarine pulled into our Dramatic play area. The submarine was constructed by our kindergarten friends and they shared it with us to explore. Keyboards, binoculars, and periscopes were added to the submarine to enhance the experience. Paper and markers were available to draw marine life observed during a ride on the submarine.
Included in our month were transportation activities that supported our skill development. The Parking Lot game reinforced number and shape recognition. Creative writing stories about vehicles and matching vehicle names with their picture enhanced our communication skills. Exploring cars and ramps and experimenting with sink or float helped build cognitive skills of discovery and exploration. Physical skills were reinforced when playing red light, green light in gym class and while tracing vehicle stencils and writing vehicle names.

It was a busy month filled with cars, trains, planes, boats, learning and FUN!
This month we celebrated many birthdays with family members, some singing and a special birthday snack. We celebrated with Ari, Alexander, Emma, Seojin Stella and Greta.

We had some special visitors this month that shared their talents with us. Thanks to Sam’s dad for sharing his soccer skills with us, Emma’s grandparents for teaching us how to make pizza dough, Felix’s mom for teaching us some new French words and Miss Debbie, from the Carnegie Library, who shared some transportation songs and stories with us.

Our thanks to the families that donated a non perishable food item to our “Cans Across the Playground” event. The 305 collected food items and $25 was donated to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The donations allowed us to form a line of food about half way around the bike path on our playground.

**Good Bye Miss Bouvy and Kenya!**

Sadly, we say Good Bye to two Green Room Friends. Miss Bouvy, a student in Pitt’s CASE program, is leaving to continue her student teaching experience at a new school. Kenya will be completing her senior year at City Charter High School. Our thanks to both of our new friends and we wish them luck in their bright futures!