Our Extended Day exploration of Transportation included boats, cars, and trains. Come along for the ride and discover the fun and learning we experienced during our travels!

In *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper a train full of toys and food for children breaks down and several large engines will not be bothered with helping at all. The only engine that stops to offer assistance is a small, blue engine. It is difficult for the little engine to pull the train over the mountain. With perseverance, encouragement by an optimistic clown, and a steady rhythm of "I think I can, I think I can..." the train makes it over the mountain to deliver the toys and food to children in need. "I thought I could, I thought I could...!"

Similar to the train in the story, we practiced carrying heavy loads using a dolly to support our "freight". We worked together to build train tracks and learned the game Transportation Bingo. Creating trains using different shapes and assembling engine hats added to the fun! In the kitchen, the friends cooked with Mrs. Loomis, making carmel apples, baked potatoes, and hot apple cider. Our Extended Day books enriched our Transportation Unit and allowed us to experience travel using a variety of vehicles. Enjoy the photos from our activities and adventures!
In Mr Gumpy's Outing by John Buningham, Mr. Gumpy enjoys taking his boat out for a drive on the river next to his house. One day, some children ask to come along on the ride. He tells them yes, as long as they don't squabble. Before he knows it, Mr. Gumpy has a boat full of animals in addition to the children! They squabble, bleat, muck about and chase each other until, "oops!", the boat tips and everyone falls into the river. They climb out, and after drying in the hot sun, Mr. Gumpy invites them to tea at his house. What an exciting day for Mr. Gumpy!

After listening to the story, we gathered props these included hats, stick animal puppets and a wooden rocking boat. Some friends acted out the story of Mr Gumpy while other friends practiced being an audience member. We also water color painting of various boats, practicing lacing with boat lacing cards, and folding paper boats then exploring with them in the water table. Sink and float activities added to our boat experiences as well. In the Red Room, we decorated wooden boats with colored tape and raced these on a race track.

The Baobab Car by Jacqueline Held and Arnaud Lavel. Is a story of the man-who-never-cleaned-his-car and does not mind that the hair from his three dogs, the mud from his friends' shoes, and the sand from his beach adventures gathers in his car. One day the wind blows in grass seeds and a baobab tree seed. The seeds flourish in the doghair-mud-sand mix, and the baobab tree grows so tall that the man cuts a hole in the roof of his car and takes off his garage roof to fit the tree. The dogs love spending time in the Baobab Car - under the shaded branches, and in the top of the tree while directing traffic with a megaphone.

We sketched and colored our own Baobab cars and added individual photos to them. The friends made paper cars to decorate ,adding pictures of plants, trees, insects, and pets. Friends folded and decorated megaphones like the basset hound in the story who sits high in the branches, holding the megaphone and directing traffic. We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoy the time with your families.

Beth McMichael  and Lisa Loomis