



TAKING A RIDE: Take a pretend trip on a bus or train

Age Range: 3-5

Skills/Subjects

- Creative Thinking & Problem Solving
- Dramatic Play & Creative Movement
- Life Skills

Materials

- large piece of cardboard
- marker and blank stickers
- toy bus or train

Directions

Ask children what they know about taking the bus, subway, or train. Talk to them about the different activities involved, such as buying tickets, making sure you're on the right bus or train, pulling the cord to signal for the bus to stop, giving up your seat for the elderly or disabled, etc.

1. **Make a map:** Draw a floor map on cardboard showing your house and the place you're going. Have use stickers to make bus-stop signs that they can place along your route. (You could also provide clay, sticks, tape, oak tag, and small boxes or blocks so children can add trees, signs, and buildings to the road map.)
2. **Get ready to go:** Prepare children for a pretend bus ride together by singing and acting out the verses below (to the tune of "The Wheels of the Bus"):
Pay your money when you get on the bus, get on the bus, get on the bus.
Pay your money when you get on the bus, to ride around the town.
Sit in the seats when you ride on the bus, etc.
Count three stops as you ride on the bus, etc.
3. **Take a ride:** Drive a toy bus along the map. Chant directions together: *Everybody on the bus! Stop number 1! Stop number 2! Everybody off the bus! We're at the park!*

Take It Further

Plan a real trip with your children using public transportation. As you ride, observe landmarks and other items of interest.

