

Social Studies Activities for your Preschooler

Presentation courtesy of WCESC Preschool

Community

- Include toys related to methods of transportation into play. Discuss the need to transport goods and people.
- Take walks in your neighborhood and identify structures, such as houses, businesses, churches, etc.
- Observe changes in the immediate environment.



Community

- Encourage your child to create structures with blocks that represent what they know about their community, such as fire stations, gas stations, hospitals, etc.
- Your child can work together with siblings or friends to move toys or materials that need to be moved or clean up the materials used for play.



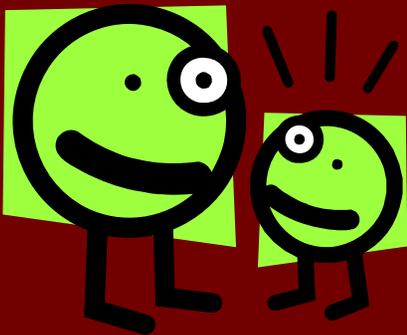
Community

- Keep a scrapbook with records of important events in your child's life. Review it with your child to teach them that we keep records of events and these records help us to recall events correctly.
- Your child can begin to categorize objects as "wants" and "needs." Help them develop the concept that people are paid for their work and the money is used to acquire goods.



Community and Helpers

- Discuss why you have rules at home. Help your child develop some household rules.
- Pretend to be a police officer and have your child pretend to be lost. Have him give you the correct information so the “officer” can help him.



Community and Helpers

- Have your child pretend to be a mail carrier and deliver mail to everyone in your home.
- Have your child make their own "house." Glue wallpaper scraps to the inside of boxes. Cut out windows and use pieces of fabric for curtains. Have her use her imagination!



Community and Helpers

- Walk around the neighborhood and collect a variety of things that could be used to make crayon rubbings or have children take paper with them and place the paper on the object and rub with a crayon.
- Show your child a picture of a police officer. Stress how important their jobs are: to help people in trouble, make sure rules are followed, direct traffic, help lost children find their way home, and keep the town safe.



Community and Helpers

- Compare the sizes of different buildings in your neighborhood.
- Talk about some fun things you can do in your town, such as going to the park, go to the museum, etc.

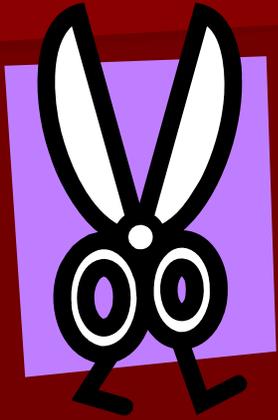


Community and Helpers

- Make a fire collage with red, orange, and yellow bits of torn paper. Talk about what firefighters do.
- Give your child a large bag and go around the neighborhood to pick up litter.



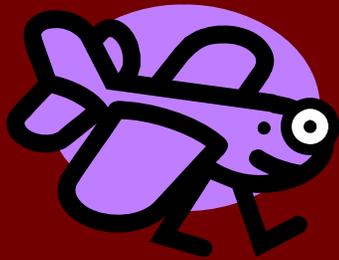
Transportation



- Discuss the various types of transportation and why they are used. Your child can cut out pictures of different types of transportation vehicles from magazines and make a collage.
- Show your child how to make a truck with a rectangle, a square, and 2 circles.

Transportation

- Cut apart pictures of vehicles in puzzle pieces and allow your child to work the puzzles.
- Group small cars, trains, boats, and other vehicles and sort them into groups of type, color, size, things that fly, things that go in the water, etc.



Transportation

- Divide a poster board into 3 sections and label them: air, land, and water. Have your child look through magazines and find pictures of transportation vehicles and place them in the right sections.
- Help your child fold paper airplanes and allow them to decorate them.



Fire Safety

- Never play with matches;
- if clothes are on fire, stop, drop and roll;
- to avoid smoke, stay low and go;
- keep away from hot appliances;
- and practice home fire drills.



Water Safety

- Never swim alone;
- in a boat, stay seated and wear a life jacket;
- get out of the water during a thunderstorm;
- walk (don't run) around a pool;
- learn to swim.



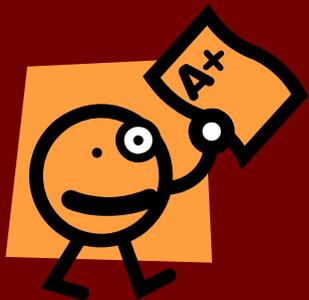
Traffic Safety



- Obey all traffic signs and lights;
- fasten your seat belt;
- before crossing a road, look left, right, then left again;
- listen and follow directions from the bus driver;
- keep both hands on the handlebars when riding a bike.

School Safety

- Walk in the school, not run;
- keep your hands and feet to yourself;
- keep litter in its place;
- stay alert and play safe on the playground;
- don't play with fire alarms or fire extinguishers.





Home Safety

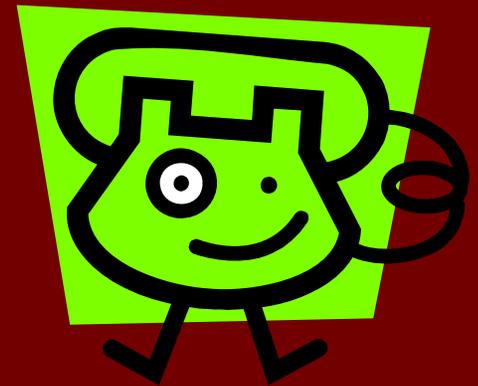
- Know your address and phone number;
- don't take medicine unless your parent gives it to you;
- stay away from household cleaners;
- never open the door for strangers;
- attach emergency numbers near each phone in the house.

Safety continued...

- Discuss some safety rules and encourage your child to offer some rules they know and obey.
- Listen to traffic sounds and have your child identify and draw what they hear. Discuss how the sounds make him feel.

Safety continued...

- Cut out a shape of a traffic light and a red, green, and yellow circle. Have your child place the lights of the traffic light in the right order and ask them what each color represents.
- Teach your child their address and phone number. Tell them why it is important for them to know this information.



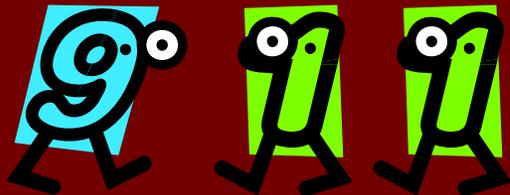
Safety continued...

- Discuss what to do if a stranger approaches and asks for help or offers candy.
- Play "Red Light, Green Light."
- Do sinking and floating experiments.



Safety continued...

- Walk around your house and look for things that could be considered unsafe.
- Show your child poison stickers and tell her what they mean and why they should avoid those products.
- Practice calling 911.



Health

- Have your child wash and dry hands, then rub lotion into their hands and buff their nails.
- Talk about the uses of water – drinking, washing dishes, bathing, etc.



Health



- Have your child look through magazines and find things that he uses to keep clean. Talk about the items and make a collage with the pictures.
- Talk about the importance of sleep.
- Discuss the importance of our eyesight. Have your child cover one eye using an eye patch and see if their everyday activities become more difficult to perform.

Health

- Discuss what to do when you need to blow or wipe your nose (get a tissue, throw it in the trash, and wash your hands).
- Talk about what your child should do if she cuts herself (wash it out, put a bandage on it, etc.).



Health

- Talk about what your child should do if he burns himself (putting ice on the burn or running cold water over it).
- Discuss the use of teeth for eating, speech, and appearance.

