

Dear Pre-K For All Families,

For the month of January, we will focus on the concept of Transportation.

In Unit 5: Transportation, children move from inquiring and thinking critically about the places where animals and people live to exploring how people move from place to place including using vehicles and other methods of transportation that do not require vehicles, such as walking. This unit, like all Pre-K for All units, provides opportunities for children to observe objects and phenomena in their environment with increasing complexity through hands-on activities in the classroom and in the community. In this unit, children have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of a major part of New York City life across all five boroughs. The full diversity of our city is reflected in this unit through the examination of trains, boats, cars, airplanes, buses, specialty vehicles and more! There are opportunities throughout the unit for you to tailor discussions and activities to reflect the children and communities you serve.

In this unit, children will read about and discuss what modes of transportation they use (including motorized vehicles, non-motorized vehicles and other modes like walking). They will also begin to think about how different kinds of transportation are similar and different. This is an opportunity to compare and contrast the attributes of different modes of transportation; children can explore the science of how vehicles move according to their interest levels. This subtopic taps into children's curiosity about vehicles and how they travel and move, enabling meaningful connections to the Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core (PKFCC). Lastly, children will observe and explore vehicle operators such as bus drivers, conductors, taxi drivers, pilots, fire fighters, police officers, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and other community helpers. In this week there are opportunities to extend learning by taking a walking field trip or having a community helper visit the classroom. These activities culminate in the final week of the unit when children explore the question, "How do we stay safe when using transportation?" Abstract ideas such as safety, traffic, and rules become more concrete when explored through games such as Red Light, Green Light.

Here is a list of some of the key vocabulary words that we are learning through this unit of study. We encourage you to use these words with your child as appropriate:

•accident •airplane •airport •ambulance •axle •bicycle •bike helmet •bridge •bus •car •cargo  
•cement mixer •conductor •crossing guard •crutches •drive •driver •emergency •EMT •engine  
•engineer •express •fare •feet •ferry •fire engine •firefighter •fly •helicopter •keys •license plate  
•local •locomotive •mail carrier •mail truck •mechanic •MetroCard •motor •operator •parachute

•pilot •police car •police officer •propeller •ramp •roll •run •safety •scooter •seatbelt •skateboard  
•speed •speed limit •stop •stroller •subway •taxi •traffic •traffic jam •traffic light •traffic signs •train  
•train tracks •transport •transportation •truck •tunnel •van •vehicle •wagon •walk •walker  
•wheelchair •yield