



Planes, Trains, And Automobiles

LET'S READ AND WRITE: PRE-WRITING ON A VERTICAL SURFACE

Providing many opportunities for children to scribble, draw, and print using crayons and markers is a way to facilitate emergent writing skills. Using a vertical surface, or any up-and-down plane, provides optimal positioning for the developing hand and wrist.

Here's What You'll Need

- Dry erase board (magnetized surface)
- Stickers (transportation)
- Spray adhesive
- Craft foam
- Self-adhesive magnetic tape
- Finger-size pom-poms
- Preschool erasers
- Dry erase markers (variety of colors)

Getting Ready

1. Mount the dry erase board on a vertical surface at child height, e.g. at an easel or chalk ledge.
2. Prepare two matching sets of transportation theme adapted stickers (see Getting Organized for the Year.)
3. Place the transportation stickers on the dry erase board, allowing enough space between pictures to draw lines to matching pictures or draw shapes around them.

Activity

Children Will:

1. **Draw** vertical and horizontal lines using markers to connect matching pictures.
2. **Draw** circles, squares, etc. around the pictures to practice shapes.
3. **Erase** the board using a preschool eraser or pom-poms.

Tips!

- If the child is using a whole hand grasp and needs help separating the two sides of the hand, position a pom-pom under his or her ring and little finger as a visual reminder to squeeze the pom-pom. Prompt the child to "hug the pom-pom." Pom-poms are available in bulk at many craft stores and dollar stores.

