

Play is the key way children learn about themselves, others and the world they live in. It is essential to their learning, development, health, and physical, mental and social well-being – and it's FUN! Play provides the building blocks to be ready for school.



Fun with things that go

Boys and girls may be interested in push and pull along vehicles of all kinds. Your toddler's fascination with vehicles will help them to learn about movement and direction.

Did you know?

Both boys and girls can tend to play silently with toy vehicles. Include some toy people or characters with your vehicles when playing. This often leads to more use of talking and make-believe play!

Add language

Talk about vehicles you see outside and in pictures as well as toys. Name the parts of the vehicle, the colours and shapes on the vehicle. Talk about what the vehicle is used for or what the vehicle is doing. If your toddler says "truck" you can extend their language by saying "Yes! Big truck. A big, blue truck". This all builds your toddler's word knowledge and sentence length.

Other development

Using a toy steering wheel gives your toddler practice at using both hands at the same time. This is an important coordination skill.

Pushing and pulling toy vehicles helps toddlers learn what they can do with their hands – how to make things go and develops their fine motor skills.



Your toddler is learning lots of early maths and science concepts while playing with vehicles. They can be:

- comparing and contrasting vehicles and putting them into groups
- learning colour and size comparison concepts e.g. big truck, little car, long train
- testing out vehicles movement on different surfaces, at different angles and at different speeds.

Variations

Some of the best toy vehicles are homemade! Why not make a car or train from a box?!

Safety

Check vehicles have no small parts that can become a choking hazard. Be careful your child can not access any batteries as they can be both toxic and choking hazards.

📌 Playgroup WA has a treasure trove of play activities for babies, toddlers and 3-5 year olds, for home and playgroup. These play activities cover a balanced diet of play across sensory, movement, language and thinking skill areas.

You can find them at www.playgroupwa.com.au/playideas or visit www.facebook.com/playgroupwa