



Dear Families,

Walking, running, dancing, climbing, jumping—three-year-olds are constantly on the go! They ride bikes, trikes, elevators, escalators, trains, buses, planes, skateboards, and cars. In Week 1, we will learn about ways our bodies move. In the weeks that follow, we will learn about moving with the help of wheels and wings. And we will finish our unit exploring ways to move in water. Take time to notice all the ways you and your child are on the go every day!

**Week 1: Places Kids Go • Week 2: Wheels
Week 3: Wings • Week 4: Water**

GREETING CIRCLE

When we gather in the Greeting Circle, we often discuss unfamiliar words that children may hear in stories and songs. It is important to preview these words and provide experiences that help children develop meaning. For example, when the word *axle* is introduced, children will look at a real axle on a tricycle and another on a toy truck. Then when the word appears in a story or a lesson, children will connect the word with the experience they had during Greeting Circle. You may be surprised to hear your child using these new words in everyday conversations. Some of the words introduced during this unit are: travel, destination, axle, aviator, and harbor.

LITERACY

Week 1: Places Kids Go

Word of the Week: travel
Focus Letters: S, s, B, b, T, t, D, d, W, w
Read-Aloud Time: The Places I Go
Get Moving!

Week 2: Wheels

Word of the Week: axle
Focus Letters: J, j, M, m, N, n, H, h, X, x
Read-Aloud Time: Wheels All Around
The Three Bears' Vacation

Week 3: Wings

Word of the Week; aviator
Focus Letters: V, v, K, k, Q, q, Y, y, Z, z
Read-Aloud Time: If I Had Wings
Little Bee's Journey

Week 4: Water

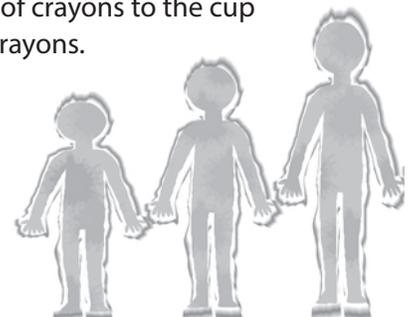
Word of the Week: harbor
Focus Letters: C, c, E, e, G, g, A, a, P, p
Read-Aloud Time: The Zebra on the Zyder Zee
Boats Float

MATH

In Theme 7, children will be arranging objects, sets, and numbers in **order**. We will practice putting things in order by **size** (small to large or short to tall). Other times we will put things in order by quantity or **how many** are in a set (three candles, two candles, one candle). And, we will learn to use ordinal numbers (first, second, third) to describe an object's **position**: *The green car is first in the line. The blue car is second. The white car is third.*

Find fun ways to practice this important math concept with your child.

- ★ Notice who is first, second, or third at the grocery checkout counter or at the stoplight.
- ★ Arrange cups of crayons from the cup with the fewest number of crayons to the cup with the most crayons.
- ★ Arrange family members from tallest to shortest.



**Parents
Are
Teachers
Too**



THEME 7: PATT Mat

LITERACY

Help your child practice counting syllables in words by clapping names of family members, favorite animals, or color words. Have your child clap once for each syllable he or she hears.

- Dad-dy (2 claps)
- Mom-my (2 claps)
- Grand-mo-ther (3 claps)
- dog (1 clap)
- mon-key (2 claps)
- pur-ple (2 claps)



MATH

The kitchen is a wonderful source of similar objects in different sizes. Invite your child to arrange three plastic bowls in order from largest to smallest. Take a look at the arrangement, and encourage your child to tell you about it.

Repeat with spoons, cups, pots, canned foods, or shopping bags. Vary the activity by ordering the objects from smallest to largest.



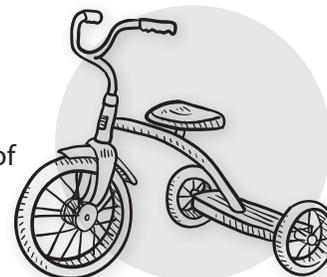
CALMING STRATEGY

After a busy day or a long ride in the car, take a few minutes to relax as you and your child become “birds.” Take deep breaths, and lift your arms to fly. Exhale as you lower your arms. Repeat slowly several times.



OUTDOORS

Go on a wheel hunt. Take your child for a walk around your yard or your neighborhood. Look for wheels. Do you see a wheel on the stroller? a tricycle? a lawnmower? a wagon? a garbage can with wheels? At the playground, you may find a merry-go-round—a giant wheel! Along the street, there are wheels of all shapes and sizes. Have fun on your search!



STEAM CONNECTION (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)



Encourage your young scientist to compare how quickly an ice cube melts in two locations. Help your child place an ice cube in each of two cups. Carry the cups to different locations. Talk about which cube you think will melt first. Check the ice periodically. Did the ice in one place melt more quickly? Was your prediction correct? On another day, try two different locations.



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STEP BY STEP

We have been talking about things that happen in a specific order or sequence. What things do you and your child do at home in sequence? Does your child have a bedtime routine? Do you follow the steps of a recipe when you cook? Please send a note or a photo to school sharing a sequence of steps or routine you follow.



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WHEEL DETECTIVES

As you and your child drive home from school, become wheel detectives. Take turns pointing out the wheeled vehicles that you see. Some of the vehicles will be on the street, but don't forget to look on sidewalks and bike paths too.



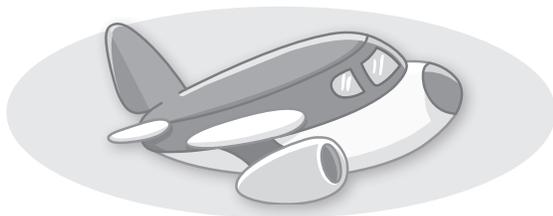
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I SPY THINGS THAT FLY

Sit outside with your child and look up at the sky. Watch for airplanes, birds, or flying insects. Count how many you see. Or, look for pictures of things that fly when you are reading a book.



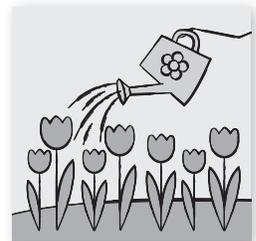
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WATER FUN

Explore water with your child. Watch rain travel down a windowpane. Add soap to bath water and make bubbles. Invite your child to help water the plants. Freeze water in different-shaped molds. Drink water from a glass and then with a straw. Compare the two ways to drink water. Which one do you like best? Enjoy!



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