



# Purposeful Ongoing Play

## Enhancing Language Skills Through Play

### Parent Tip Sheet (P.O.P. Sheet) on... Cars, Trucks, & More

- \* Find cars, trucks, and other vehicles that match your child's interests.
- \* Below are some ideas that may be used, but don't feel you have to use them all every time you pick up a toy car. Just pick 2 or 3 that you feel comfortable with and can easily do.
- \* If possible, find a varied selection of cars and trucks of different types, colors and sizes, and spontaneously mention those differences during play.
- \* Point out the different parts of a vehicle (e.g. doors, windows, lights, wheels, tires, trunk, hood, horn).
- \* Include other types of transportation during play. Some possibilities are bicycles, motorcycles, buses, trains, canoes, boats, ships, helicopters, airplanes, and hot air balloons. Talk about **where** these are seen (e.g. roads, highways, tracks, rivers, lakes, oceans, sky, air) or **who** might be in them (e.g. rider, bus driver, conductor, captain, pilot).
- \* If using specialized vehicles such as police cars or fire trucks, use associated words during play when possible such as policeman, police station, fireman, fire station, and any other pertinent vocabulary.
- \* If you have two or three different types of transportation, talk about how they're the same or different. For example, "The airplane is in the sky but the boat is in the water!" or "The bicycle and the motorcycle both have two wheels!"
- \* Using a ramp or bridge of some kind, have the car go up, down, under, over and through, emphasizing these position words as you demonstrate.
- \* Watch your child as he/she interacts with the cars, trucks, or other vehicles and verbally affirm what they're doing by commenting on their actions.
- \* Make the sounds that you might hear as you pretend play, such as "Vroom, vroom!" for cars, "Choo, choo!" for trains, or the noise of emergency vehicle sirens.



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