

A PROGRAM OF UNITED DISABILITY SERVICES



TOY & RESOURCE CENTER **BUILDING BLOCKS**

ONE ITEM ONE SITE ONE IDEA



We're on the right track with this month's toy—**train sets**! Trains are an open-ended item that allow creativity and imagination to flourish! As little ones choo-choo-choose how to configure the train tracks, they are problem solving and using critical thinking skills to create a functional path for the train to move without obstacles!

As they maneuver the train around the track, they are also able to acquire language concepts (e.g., under the bridge, through the tunnel, over the mountain). While building and playing with a train set, children must manipulate the pieces and coordinate their movements to place things in a certain order for the train to operate. These actions require fine motor skills, spatial reasoning and eye-hand coordination! Figuring all of this out is much harder than it STEAMS!

Engage in dramatic play experiences by lining up chairs to make a pretend train. Be sure to ask questions pertaining to their trip. *Where are you going? Why? What will you see?* Strengthen fine motor skills by using hole punchers to punch train tickets as everyone comes aboard! You could borrow ***The Adventures of the Little Red Train*** to correlate with these activities or the entire family could enjoy the North Pole Adventure aboard the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad located in Peninsula.

<https://www.cvsr.org/npa-info/>



This site includes songs, crafts, activities and other train resources to keep things rolling all day long!

childcarelounge.com/pages/train-theme-and-activities

Fun with Food Idea

Come train or shine, this snack idea will have your little ones moving full speed ahead! Nutritious and fun all in one!



You can use a variety of cut up fruits and vegetables to create a train on a track. Here you see bananas, peas, carrots, almonds, oranges but you could also use pretzel sticks for the train track, cotton candy for the smoke coming from the smokestack or cucumbers for the wheels! The possibilities are endless. Have fun and enjoy!



Why buy toys when you can borrow them? United Disability Services' toy lending library loans developmental toys and resource materials to its members. Stop by and see us!

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