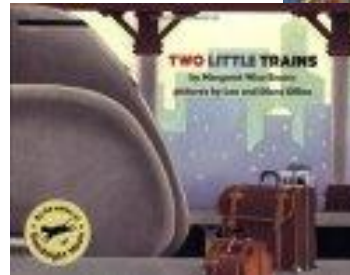


Preschool Post

Lesson 35



www.PreschoolPost.com



Letter: X

Preschool Theme: Trains

Bible Theme: In this lesson children learn how we must call on God for the ability to overcome some of life's biggest obstacles. God will equip us when we follow his plan.

Morning Circle:

Show the children some nice [large photos of trains](#). Take some time to discuss these with the children. Which one(s) do they like best? Have any of them taken a train ride? How did the train sound? Feel? Show them a [photo of a railroad crossing sign](#). Ask the children what letter they see. Say the "X" sound together. Say the following words together that have the "X" sound in them, using drawings of the [words as visual aids](#): "boXcar," "siX," "eXit," "eXcited," "foX," "relaX," and "X-marks-the-spot."

Show the children the photo of the railroad crossing sign again. Have they ever thought about where the trains are going? Ask the children to think about some of the things the trains might "see" when travelling from one place to the next.

Read: [Two Little Trains](#), by Margaret Wise Brown.

Music & Movement:

First, hand out [sandpaper blocks, triangles, and bells](#) to the children. Then try to simulate the sound of a train by combining the sounds of the instruments.

Next, help the children line up in a long, single-file line with their hands resting gently on the next child's shoulders. Play Gary Lapow's "[Choo Choo Train](#)" song from his "I Like Noodles" CD, and dance your "train" around the room!

Snack:

X-Marks-the-Spot crackers and "squeeze" cheese. Help the children make X's on round crackers using squeezable cheese to resemble both the railroad crossing signs and an "x-marks-the-spot."

Centers:

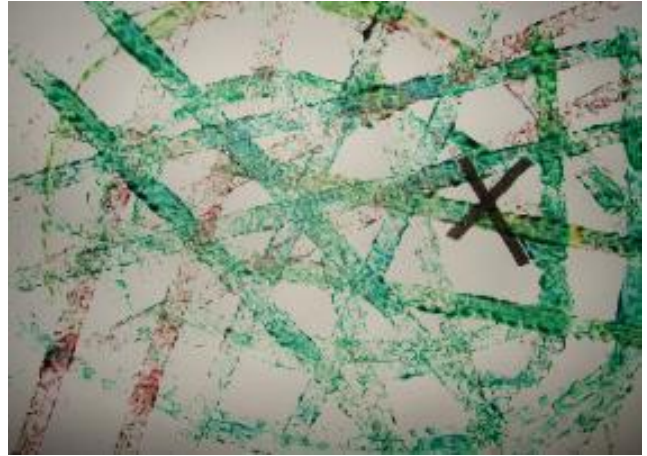
1. Dramatic play. Set up a large area with plenty of wooden trains and tracks, blocks for buildings, plastic rocks and trees, etc. and let the children's imaginations run free!

2. Problem-solving. Create a simple "map" of the room with an "x-marks-the-spot" ending where a little train engine is hiding. Make the children follow the directions on the map, such as a trail leading "through a tunnel" (which might be down a hallway,) "over the rugged mountains" (which might be over a pile of pillows,) and "around the foul-smelling caves (which might be past the restrooms.) Make the map simple enough for your children to understand, and let them work cooperatively in groups to find the little lost engine.

3. Train shapes. Use tangram pieces or other geometric shapes and encourage the children to create train shapes with them. Can the children make an engine? A boxcar? How about a long train with many cars?

Art Activity:

Making tracks. Set up the easels and break out the paint shirts and let your little railroad tycoons "build" tracks to their homes. Let the children try dipping train cars or other toys with wheels into paint, then run them over their papers to make tracks. Encourage the children to think about the things they go past on their way home, and paint "tracks" past those landmarks. Make sure they include an "X" at the end to indicate their home. For example, the children might paint flowers beside one part of their track and a lake by another, or may just end up with a spiral of tracks ending in an "X." Let them decide how to create their maps, and have fun!

**Bible Storytime:**

Read [The Little Engine that Could](#), by Watty Piper.

Ask the children whether they've ever felt like they were not strong enough, or big enough, to do something hard. Explain that sometimes, we have to wait until we're bigger to do some things, like drive a car or mow the lawn. But for those things that we need to do, and are afraid we can't do, like play an instrument in a recital, or learn how to ride a bike, Jesus will help us be strong enough and brave enough to do them!

Bible Verse Bracelets:

"I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

Song:

["Jesus Loves Me."](#)

Additional Activity:

If there is a local steam engine club, miniature railway, train museum, or model train exhibit closeby, take the children on an excursion! If there is nothing like these near you, borrow a "Thomas the Tank Engine" DVD and enjoy a movie time with the children.

Optional Resources:

[Handwriting Worksheet X is for Boxcar](#)

[Bible Handwriting X is for Crucifix](#)

[Train Theme Coloring Pages](#)

[Boxcar Round-up Phonics File Folder Game](#)



Helpful Links:

[Ten Commandment Train on Christian Preschool Printables](#)

[ABC Train Printables on The Crafty Classroom](#)

[Transportation Classroom Quilt on Preschool Mom](#)

[Train Crafts on Totally Tots](#)

Notes:
