



Toy Car Tracks

Push a toy car and watch the track it leaves behind.

Helps Your Child Grow



Emergent Mathematical Thinking

Predicting where a toy car will travel and comparing that idea with the painted track helps your child test and refine an understanding of movement through space.

Steps

- Gather toy cars, washable paint, and white paper on a flat table or floor.
- Dip a car's wheels lightly in paint and push it across the paper. Point to the track: "The car went from here to here and left a straight line."
- Invite your child to coat another car's wheels and push it along the first track. Does it leave a similar line?
- Compare the position and direction of the two tracks: "Both cars left straight lines going forward."
- Try pushing left, right, or at an angle. Compare each new track with the earlier ones: "This line curves. It looks different from the first one."

Tips

- After several rounds, your child may begin anticipating where the car will go before they push it.
- Give the back of the car one gentle push and release it rather than steering it the whole way. This lets your child predict and watch its path while developing #C-EMT.

Observations

- Looks at the existing track and tries to follow a similar route
- Changes how hard they push to control how far the car travels