



Little Track, Big Ideas

Run out of track? Turn other toys into a route for the train.

Helps Your Child Grow



Creativity

Turning blocks, boxes, string, or other open-ended materials into tracks helps your child transform an idea into pretend play and explain how the invented route works.

Steps

- Pretend play leaves room for creative solutions, especially when the materials do not work exactly as planned.
- Set out animal figures and toys for a train-delivery game. Let your child design a track that reaches each animal.
- If the track pieces run out before every animal receives a toy, leave the problem for your child to explore.
- They may extend the route with magnetic tiles, blocks, or another material. Acknowledge the invention: “Is that a colorful express track? The train can keep going.”
- Invite more possibilities: “What special job does this part of the track do?”
- Your child may abandon the track and deliver by plane or car instead. Treat the new solution as part of the creative play.

Tips

- Offer open-ended materials such as boxes, string, blocks, bottle caps, cardboard tubes, or fabric strips. They can become bridges, tunnels, tracks, or stations in many different ways.

Observations

- Explains what different parts of the invented track do
- Arranges the track pieces in different ways to create new routes