

Let's Explore the Airport with Buzzy

Introduction

Traveling to various parts of the United States or even the world can be a part of many children's vacations. Although traveling by air is not the most common method of transportation for children, it is a part of many of their lives in an extended fashion. Their parents may fly often for business, grandparents may fly for a visit, or they may know someone who works for an airline.

Let's Explore the Airport with Buzzy gives children the opportunity to preview an airport terminal up close. *Let's Explore the Airport with Buzzy* can give children who would not have the opportunity to fly insight into what an airport is. For children who are fortunate enough to have flown, the program provides a fun outlet for reliving that experience.

Materials

- Computer with CD-ROM drive
- *Let's Explore the Airport with Buzzy*
- Books about airplanes, airports, and transportation to display in the reading center

Introductory Activity

- Read the book, *On a Plane* by Kate Petty aloud to the children. Display pictures of airplanes, airports, runways, and other related items at the children's eye level before circle time. Talk about what happens in each of the following areas at the airport: the reservation desk, airplane cabin, cockpit, and baggage area. Discuss what some of the duties of a flight attendant are such as distributing snacks and magazines and helping keep passengers safe.
- Role play different situations on an airplane or at the airport. Read *Airport* by Byron Barton to the children and discuss each page. Let the children add their own interpretations. Record various situations on index cards: a passenger who forgot his ticket, taking off in a thunder storm, and flying without parents. Put the index cards in a box and let the children draw a card and act out the activity.

Computer Activity

- Children can view and interact with *Let's Explore the Airport with Buzzy* software individually or in small groups during center time.
- You might ask the children some of the following questions as they view the program: "Have you ever ridden in an airplane?," "Have you and your family visited an airport?," "What things might you see at an airport?," "What might you see from an airplane while flying?," "Would you like to take a trip on an airplane?," and "Would you like to be a flight attendant?"

Extended Activity

- Use pictures from the introductory activity. Ask the children where they might go on an airplane. Chart the children's responses and talk about places the children wanted to visit. Place *My First Amazing World Explorer* on the computer as a choice. Children can discover some of the places they would like to visit. Also, provide a variety of travel brochures for exploration.
- Display pictures of various planes. Have toys and/or models of the various types of planes and items to be transported or let children find them around the room. Talk with the children about what the different types of planes transport. Children can discuss each type using the toys and items to transport.

Summary

Let's Explore the Airport with Buzzy gives children the opportunity to explore the world in a broader sense. Although a child may not actually get the opportunity to fly on an airplane, they can learn through exploration on the computer.

Let's Explore the Airport with Buzzy

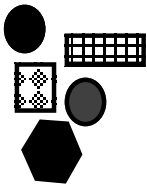
CURRICULUM INTEGRATION IDEAS



Art

- Paint with toy airplanes (plastic or metal with wheels). Add a small amount of dish soap to tempera paint.
- Paint with straws or bubble paint. Children can practice blowing.
- Create pictures of airplanes in *Kid Pix Studio*.

Blocks/Manipulatives



- Add props to the block area for constructing an airport. Place toy airplanes, trucks, people, and buildings in the area along with blocks, twigs, small rocks, and spools.
- Display pictures of airports and airplanes or pictures taken from airplanes. Add small blocks, twigs, pebbles, and spools to be transported by plane.
- Place a Fisher-Price little people airport in the block area. Add other airplanes, cars, people, small bags, doll luggage, and small trucks to move the luggage.

Construction



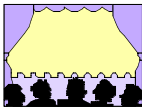
- Create paper airplanes.
- Make airplanes out of Popsicle sticks.
- Construct windsocks.
- Use cardboard boxes to construct airplanes.

Cooking/Snacks



- Make snacks (e.g., sandwiches, fruit slices, and cookies) to serve on the airplane.
- Have the children take drink orders.
- Offer milk and a variety of juices and soda pop.

Dramatic Play



- Create an airport terminal. Make the ticket counter and label it. Place tickets and envelopes for passenger check-in.
- Provide suitcases and bags for check-in. Use a bathroom scale for weighing luggage and stickers to label destination.
- Have stamps and a stamp pad available for stamping the passports of overseas travelers.
- Make the airplane cockpit and cabin.

Group/Individual Story Experiences



- Display pictures of airplanes and start a discussion on flying.
- Show the children the illustrations in the book, *Flying* by Donald Crews. Talk about take off, flying in the air, and landing and how this might make them feel. Let children share what they might see from an airplane and how it would look.



Music and Movement

- Sing songs from *On the Move with Greg and Steve*.

Outdoor Play/Motor



- Pretend to fly by holding arms out and “soaring.” Move like an airplane and make sounds.
- Swing and feel the air.
- Provide airplane toys for children to sort by size. Make boxes; label one “big” and one “little.” Children can place airplane toys in the appropriate box.

Science/Math



- Weigh luggage at the classroom airport. Provide a bathroom scale, suitcases, and items to put in the suitcases.
- Play luggage load. Provide old suitcases and things to put in them. Make a “baggage drop off” sign. Children can load suitcases and take to the “baggage drop-off” area.
- Sort plastic airplanes by color, shape, and size.

Sensory



- Conduct experiments with wind and air.
- Make a wind tunnel.
- Explore the relationship between water and air. Does wind move through water like it does through air?

Literacy Links



- Name and make a sign for the airport. Label various places at the airport terminal.
- Make airplane tickets and passports. Write the countries on them.
- Bring in travel brochures for children to plan their trips.



Related Books, Poems & Stories

- *Airport* (B. Barton)
- *Flying* (D. Crews)
- *On a Plane* (K. Petty)
- *Planes* (A. Rockwell)



Related Software

- *Gregory and the Hot Air Balloon*
- *My First Amazing World Explorer*
- *My First Incredible, Amazing Dictionary*
- *Richard Scarry's How Things Work in Busytown*

Related Websites

- **How Airplanes Work:**
www.howstuffworks.com/airplane.htm
- **Kool Paper Airplanes:**
- **National Air and Space Museum:**
www.nasm.si.edu



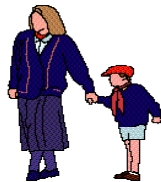
koolpaperairplanes.co

Extensions Beyond the Classroom



- Visit your local airport.
- Visit a farm that has a crop duster and talk with the pilot.
- Invite a pilot to the classroom.
- Visit an air show in the area. Take a field trip and/or participate by having a lemonade stand.
- Watch videotape taken from an airplane.

Family Connections



- Have parents bring passports from home to share with the class.
- Make passports at home with your family. Use photos of the children, and let them glue them on construction paper. Children and parents can decorate with markers, crayons, or pencils.
 - Ask parents to discuss traveling to other countries with their children. They might use a globe or map and point out the United States.