



“This is the Way We Go to School” Safe Routes to School Lesson Grade level: Kindergarten

Subject Areas: Language Arts, Social Studies, Health, Math

Introduction

In this 30 minute lesson students will discuss the concept of “Transportation” looking at how they get to school and be exposed to how other children around the world get to school through the book, [This is the Way We Go to School](#). They will identify active ways of transport. As an additional activity they can explore their available options for transport to and from school.

Materials:

White board/marker or chart paper/marker

[This is the Way We Go to School](#), book by Laine Falk, Children’s Press or another longer book by the same title by Edith Baer (available at the public library)

World map (optional)

adhesive colored dots (optional)

worksheet/pencil and crayons

magazines (optional)

Time: 30 minutes

1) Discussion:

Write the word “transportation” with a circle around it on the board or chart paper. Ask students what they think of when they hear that word, or how they get to school. Write or draw their responses to the word map (walk, bike, car, bus, scooter,...) and define Transportation as how people go from one place to another.

Let them know that not long ago it was much more common for children in the U.S. to walk and bicycle to school, and that for a variety of reasons, more children are arriving in cars. Tell them that you are going to read a book about how children get to school all around the world. Tell them to try to remember all the different ways.

2) Reading Activity:

Read the book, [This is the Way We Go to School](#), to the class.

After reading the book, ask students to recall any new modes of transportation and add them to the word (or drawn) map.

3) Physical Activity: Pantomime

Have students stand up and physically act out pantomimes of different modes of transportation that are listed on the board and acted out by the presenter. Ask students to guess which mode is being acted out.

4) Discussion: Fun and Healthy Ways of Getting Around

Remind students that some ways of getting around can give them energy, exercise and can be a lot of fun. These modes of transportation (ways of getting around) can keep them healthy and help them learn. Have students suggest different ways of getting around that can give them exercise and circle the ones on the board in another color to highlight them.

5) Closing:

Summarize the lesson, covering the term “Transportation” what it means and how children all over the world get to school. Ask students to think about how they can have more fun and healthy ways of getting to school and talk to their parents about it later on.

Optional Activities:

- 1) Show students the map on the back of the book. Locate a few of the countries on a map and discuss how the students’ journey to school from those countries is different than their own. List some of those differences. Ask students if they could decide, how would they like to come to school. Ask why they chose that mode.
- 2) Create a paper bar graph of various modes of transportation. Ask students how they get to school. Have each student place a colored adhesive dot in the appropriate column. Look at the chart with the students and discuss the results. Why might some modes have a higher number than others? Ask students to come up with ideas to help more students walk or roll to school.
- 3) Use old magazines for students to collect pictures of various modes of transportation. Have students categorize polluting and non-polluting modes.
- 4) Ask students to think about what transportation will be like in the future. Have them draw a picture of their prediction and write a sentence about how it works.

Homework:

Use the following worksheet and have students identify their mode of transportation and their favorite mode of transportation from the book, [This is the Way We Go to School](#).

Additional Safe Routes to School information can be found at:

www.sfsaferoutes.org
www.saferoutesinfo.org

The San Francisco Safe Routes to School Program is funded by:
The Metropolitan Transportation Agency
San Francisco Department of Public Health

This curriculum was adapted with permission from the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools “Walk and Roll K-5 Educator’s Guide” - 2012 version.



Name: _____

Directions: Draw a picture to go with each sentence.

“This is how I usually go to school.”

“This is another way I could get to school.”