

Transportation



In a City as
are so many

explore – zoos, museums, libraries, amusement parks and so on. One of our challenges is how to get there. This section helped us to understand how to get around using public transportation.

big as Chicago there
wonderful places to

We completed:

- Map reading and mapping our neighborhoods
- A discussion on how the past connects with the present and future
- A discussion on the different forms of transportation in Chicago
- A discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of using public transportation
- Activities on how to teach your child about using public transportation and developing map skills

To add to your resources in this section we'll:

- Share your applications
- List additional resources



Take it From Us

Getting From Here to There

#1 this activity will teach: THE ROUTES BETWEEN HOME AND FREQUENT DESTINATIONS

Halsted Bus #129 A North (1)

skills utilized: writing, sorting

Dan Ryan "L" to 55th St North (2)

resources needed: markers, popsicle sticks, envelopes

activity: You and your child will take a trip using public transportation. Each time you and your child board a bus or train, your child will write the bus route number and name on a popsicle stick. He or she will also number the popsicle sticks showing what bus or train they took 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. When you and your child return to your beginning location, all the popsicle sticks are placed in one envelope and your trip destination is written on the front of the envelope. For example: Museum of Science and Industry, Evergreen Plaza Mall, Art Institute, etc.

hints: You might want to add the name of the place on each of the sticks for each trip so they don't get lost or put in the wrong envelope.



#2 this activity will teach: HOW TO ESTIMATE HOW LONG A TRIP WILL TAKE

skills utilized: multiplication, division, addition, subtraction

resources needed: map or atlas, ruler, notepad, pencil

activity: While traveling in the car, my daughter constantly asks "How long will it take to get there?" or "Are we there yet?" So, using a map, I map out the route we plan to take. Using the map scale and a ruler I have my daughter measure the distance from our house to the destination and determine how many miles that is. If we are driving on the freeway, I estimate 60-65 miles per hour, and I have my daughter divide the total number of miles for the trip by 60 or 65. This gives her an estimate of how many hours the trip will take. As we travel, she can subtract the amount of time we have already been in the car

from the total estimated time of the trip, giving her a sense of how much longer the trip will take.

hints: Have your child tally how much time the trip actually took and compare the times, discussing the reasons why they are different.

#3 this activity will teach: HOW TO ESTIMATE THE AMOUNT AND PRICE OF GAS NEEDED FOR A CAR TRIP



skills utilized: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division

resources needed: the length of the trip in miles, the gas mileage of the car, the price of gas per gallon

activity: I have my daughter figure out how many gallons of gas we will use on a trip by dividing the total estimated miles for the trip by the gas mileage of the car. For example if our trip is estimated to be 100 miles long, and our car gets 20 miles to each gallon of gas, my daughter would divide 100 by 20 to get 5 gallons of gas. Then, she multiplies the gallons needed by the price of gas per gallon. For example, 5 gallons times the cost of gas, \$1.65, equals \$8.25. This is the estimated cost of gas for the trip.

hints: Gas prices are going up and down so much -- discuss that and how it affects the way you plan your budget. You might also compare the difference of cost between driving, flying or taking a train to the same place.

Comparing Transportation Cost		
Trip From:		To:
Car	Plane	Train
Trip From:		To:
Cab	Bus:	Train:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which is cheaper? What would make you decide to take one over the other? What makes one so much more expensive than the other? 		

#4 this activity will teach: THE COST OF TRAVEL

skills utilized: addition, subtraction, making comparisons

resources needed: money, map

activity: My child and I will ride in a cab, bus, and train to different sights around the city. We will compare how much money is needed for the different means of transportation. I will ask my child what she thinks influences why one mode of transportation costs more or less than another way. We will also talk about walking and biking as alternative methods of transportation, comparing the cost and time to the previous three methods.

hints: You can use a chart similar to the one above.

#5 this activity will teach: MAP MAKING SKILLS

skills utilized: writing, concept of maps

resources needed: poster board, pencil, crayons or markers, ruler

activity: Ask your child to pick a place in the neighborhood that they visit often. Help them draw a map that shows the route from your house to this place and all the important places they pass on their way. Make sure to ask them if the schools, churches, stores, and parks in the neighborhood are on their map. Help them label the streets. Have them show you their intended destination on their map and use it the next time they go there.

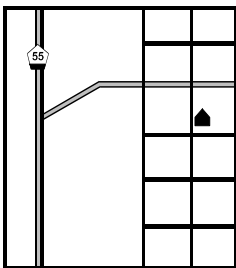
hints: You can also ask them to cut out houses, churches, stores, etc. and then layout a map using them.



#6 this activity will teach: MAP READING AND DIRECTION WRITING

skills utilized: addition, direction writing, reading a map, using a map scale

resources needed: map, bus, or train timetables/map



activity: When my son wants to go downtown with friends, I will require that we take a “dry-run” on paper. We will find the spot that they want to visit on a map and determine how to get there on public transportation. He must write out directions that include which bus or train to ride, which direction to ride it, which side of the street to stand on to catch the bus, and where to get off. Using the map scale and bus or train timetables, he will have to calculate the distance to be traveled and he must also

include an estimate of how long the trip will take in his directions.

hints: As a part of your “dry-run” you might want to go through different scenarios, such as: “what if you got on the wrong bus?”, “what if someone offered to give you a ride while you were waiting for the bus?” Make a game of this!

Write out directions here:

Leaving:

Going to:

Transportation Needed:

#7 this activity will teach: MAP MAKING AND MAP READING



skills utilized: map making, reading

resources needed: paper, pencil, Crayons, bus fare

activity: Take your child on a bus ride not far from your home.

Take the pencils and have your child draw a map of the path from your house to the destination, including the streets between your house and the destination. Using the crayons, have your child color and draw some symbols that represent different places in the neighborhood, such as a church, park, or store. Come back the same way on the trip home and have your child use their map to tell you what landmarks or streets are coming up next. You can make it their responsibility to guide you home again, telling you where to get off the bus, and which streets to turn at, using their map as a reference.

hints: Be careful to think about the age level of your children and what each level is capable of. Younger children may just refer to places (turn at McDonalds or by Jimmy's house) while older children may be able to be much more specific.

#8 this activity will teach: HOW TO USE A REFERENCE GRID

skills utilized reading

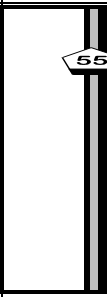

resources needed: map with a reference grid

activity: Open the map and have your children select a place from the list of places of interest. They should identify the coordinates that correspond to that place and find that letter and number on the map. They can use their fingers to find the intersection of the correct column and row and once they have pinpointed their destination, have them practice by picking more places and locating them in the same way.

hints: You can also do this backwards. Find a place on map and give them the coordinates for that place, then have them look at the map and figure out what place is located at the intersection of those coordinates.

MAP

Places of Interest
Navy Pier C-1
The Art Institute E-4

	A	B	C	D	E	F	
1			Navy Pier				
2							
3							
4						Art Institute	
5							



#9 this activity will teach: MAP READING

skills utilized: map reading, giving directions

resources needed: maps

activity: When our family goes on a car trip, I will give each child a map of the route we are taking. While we are driving, each child will take turns giving us directions about which roads to take, which direction to travel, etc.

#10 this activity will teach: HOW TO LEARN THE CHICAGO PUBLIC



skills utilized: directions, reading a map and timetable

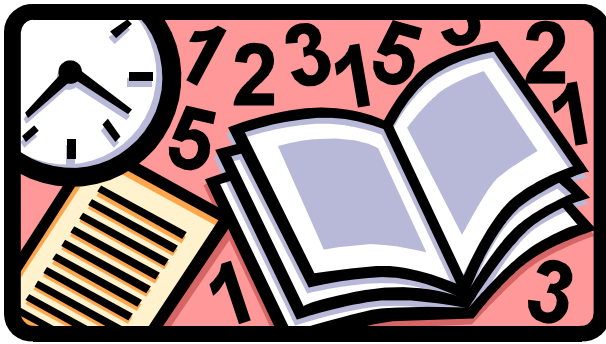
resources needed: money to ride buses and trains, transit system map [maps can be obtained free of charge at most train stations]

activity: I took a group of neighborhood children downtown who had never been there before. First I had them call the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) information line. They had to ask about bus and train routes and figure out how to get to the airport and back home again using the map and the information they found out from CTA. We went to both O'Hare and Midway airports- good destinations because we had to change trains downtown and both airport stops are at the end of their train line.

hints: Use the train color-coding as an aid to riding the "L" – this is a good point of reference. Maybe make a game out of it – 10 questions

Ex. I'm going to go to Midway on the "L" using the train – what color train system would I take to get me directly there?





Resources

Written Materials

Transit Information Center 836-7000

Metra Maps

Metra Passenger Service – 312-322-6777

Amtrack Schedules



Computer Websites

www.worldbook.com

www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/geography

www.geomatters.com

www.nystromnet.com

www.djmssoftware.com

www.rtaichicago.com

www.metrarail.com

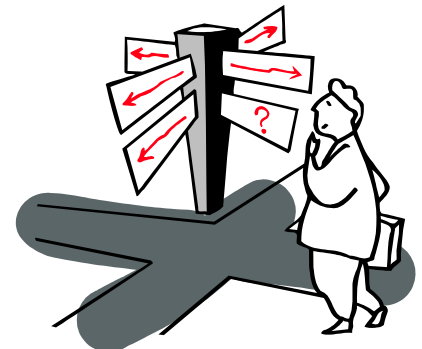
www.amtrack.com

People to Talk to

Bus drivers

Metra Information Center

Amtrack



Airline Information Staff (Call by the individual airline)