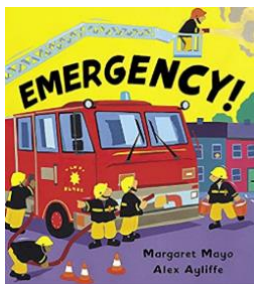


F is for Fire Engine

We had the fire station and engines out at Preschool today and the children chose their own play ideas. Some were on their hands and knees and pushing the fire engines as fast as they could making noises, some role-played using the firemen using good language skills and knowledge of what Firemen do to help people in the community and some drew around them making beautiful pictures.

Fire Engines are only the beginning of this vast topic and extension activities could be art and craft, role play, hose pipe role play in the garden and even quiet discussions and stories on the number to call if there is a real emergency.



This is one of the popular books we read to the children at Preschool.

Art and craft Ideas could include hand painting fire engines. The children loved hand painting today at Preschool and it's always a favourite at the easel. Talk about how many wheels or windows the fire engine needs, what shape are the windows, what other equipment is on a fire engine and can they draw a ladder, a hose and the flashing light. What noise does it make? What do Firemen do?

You could help them make a fire engine out of a big box and use it as a prop for hours of role-play possibilities.



Garden activity



If you're lucky enough to have a playhouse in the garden and a hose pipe you've got two great resources for a Fireman role-play.

Maybe you could paint a fire picture and put it in the windows to make it more realistic. Mix red and yellow paints to make different shades of orange.

Making sure the water left in the hose is at a safe temperature (hot days the water can reach boiling point inside the hose). Turn it on and let the child have lots of fun putting out the pretend fire.

If you're really lucky they may even clean it too!

Fire pictures



Colour mixing is a number one favourite activity at preschool. When they see that colours can make even more colours, they are fascinated.

Fire pictures can be made from mixing yellow and red together to make orange, but more or less of each colour make different shades and children love to experiment.

Try adding sand for extra texture.



I love this example as you see how their concentration and attention for detail develops over time.

Nature walk



Go for a nature walk and collect sticks to make a pretend campfire.

Talk about the shape a fire needs to be, can they manipulate the sticks into the right shape?

Will you make a circle or a triangle shape?

Don't forget the marshmallows!