

Theme Letters and PATT Mat Activities

Frog Street Pre-K is organized into nine four-week themes. These overarching topics spark children's interest and integrate intentional instruction in all areas of their development. When families have an overview of a theme's content, they become active members of the learning team by:

- engaging children in conversations that support and enhance learning
- helping children identify and name related objects in their environment
- reading stories at home that reinforce and extend vocabulary and concepts
- encouraging children to describe their experiences at school
- providing opportunities for appropriate creative experiences

For family members who choose to support children's development with more specific shared experiences, a Parents Are Teachers Too • Padres nos maestros tambien mat for each theme is also included. Each PATT Mat suggests five open-ended hands-on activities. The instruction is addressed to the child. A parent or family member is expected to read the instruction aloud to the child. The suggested experiences support the theme and are designed to encourage children to gain confidence and extend what they are learning in school.

On the *Family Connections* CD you will find an overview letter and a PATT Mat (in English and in Spanish) for each theme.

Theme 7 **Cosas que se mueven**

Theme 7 **Things that Move**

Dear Family,
We move. Animals move. Cars, boats, trains, buses, and planes move. The wind and ocean waves move. Clocks and Ferris wheels move. During the next four weeks, we will explore things that move—over, under, and across. Don't be surprised if, at your next counting, spelling, and writing, you'll see movement in the way you use your words. We'll be exploring the movement of the sun and the moon, and trying your own ideas of movement. An activity exploring the idea of front, a special activity from our classroom will be available for your theme. Check for a note from our special teacher, *Fanny Frog*. She is anxious to spend some time with your family.

Literacy
As a sound detective and hear for words that create words. Think about words that sound like the word they create—bush, creek, wing, sting, bus, and gear. Some people call these words onomatopoeic words. Have someone read the Alphabet Theme poem to you and listen for an onomatopoeic word. Pretend you are an airplane and make noise as you take off and land.

Math
As a theme object movement is the perfect one to explore. Think about the position of objects (up, under, beside, behind) and explain or describe the movement (up, down, left, right). Children will begin to place objects as a grid shows they understand directional words. Another poem/ song works as a theme. For example, you can look through a picture book. Put objects in the air and under something, and ask your child to locate them. Hold a rope or pendulum at different heights, and ask your child to tap the rope and under it. Use an object using objects your child can get over and under. On each object, have it tap with the word over or under, under or up.

Theme Job
Add to Photo Funny as you see in your journal to use your theme. Think about the things that the two of you can do together. Imagine what Photo Funny would say, and ask someone to help you write the words in the journal. It will be fun to share your experiences with your classroom when you take the journal back to school.

Outdoors
Place an old wheel on your own floor and roll through the air in an open area in a park. Take the wheel off your floor and take it over a piece of paper. Set the "Object" (the wheel) at a side on your table. What happens in nature and the way the wheel can change from above or below without ever leaving it?

Calm Down Strategy
Teach the *Midsummer Sleepless* to someone in your family. Recruit your arm to each side to make helicopter blades. Gently move side to side as far as you can. Slowly inside and outside each each each. After a few start-up times, pick up speed. Stop quickly for a few moments, and then slow down for a safe landing.

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