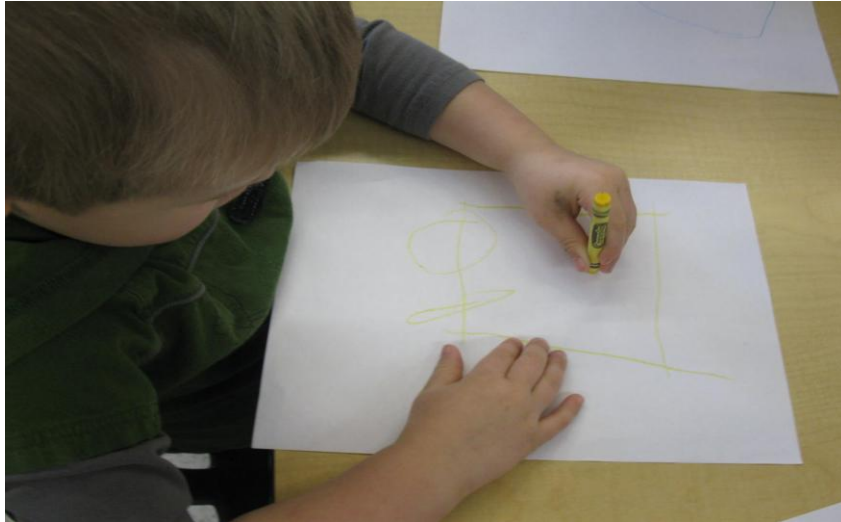


# Cars, Cars, Cars!!!!

The Pre-Kindergarten children had a strong interest in playing with cars. We decided to take their interest and set up an invitation for creating their own cars.



We set out the materials on a table during play time for the children to explore. We placed cardboard boxes, string, paper plates and books about cars on the table. The children were very excited and observed the books. A boy told the teacher, "Let's build a car!" All the children agreed. The teacher asked, "How can we build a car?" The children decided that a car needs wheels, doors, lights, and seat belts. They spent time observing the books for ideas to build their cars.



### **Step 1: Drawing Cars**

We had each child made a picture of what their car would look like. They had to include specific details for the colour, number of lights, doors and wheels. The children each shared their plans with the teacher. Their ideas were recorded on their car design poster.



## **Step 2: Painting Cars**

The children picked out a box and went to the “store” to pick out the right colour of paint. The children choose the colour of paint that matched their drawing of the car. Each child carefully painted the entire car and they made sure to cover up all the brown spots.



## **Step 3: Painting Lights**

The teacher asked the children how many lights does a car need? The children explored pages in the books to find out how many lights each car needed, the shapes and colours they needed to make for the front and back lightsfor their car. From their research, the children learned they needed to make four lights, two for the front and two for the back. The front lights are yellow circles. The back lights should be red rectangles.



#### **Step 4: Gluing Lights**

The children patiently waited for their car lights to dry, so they could attach them to the box. The children carefully glued the edges of their lights and attached them to their cars. The teacher placed metal fasteners to help hold the lights in place.



### **Step 5: Designing Wheels**

The children looked through books and found pictures of different car wheels. They used crayons to carefully draw and colour four wheels for their car.



### **Step 6: Fastening Seat Belts**

The teachers helped the children put seat belts in their cars to keep them safe. We used heavy strings on each side to go around their shoulders.



## **Step 6: Test Drive**

We took their cars to the school gym for a test drive on family day. The children were very excited to drive their cars. They raced around the gym and showed their parents the great cars they made at school.



## **Driving in the Hallway**

Next we took the children in the hallway to drive their cars. First, they learned the rules of the “road” (hallway) from the “police officers” (teachers). They toured the school carefully and quietly driving their cars. They all followed the rules respectfully and none of the children received a ticket from the police.

## The Learning Experience

The children learned many exciting things during this project. They had an opportunity to research information about cars including important facts, vocabulary and rules. They designed their own unique style of car and were able to decorate with materials of their choice. They learned how long a project can take and it takes perseverance to finish their work. They all took pride in their work and we very excited to show their families the endless hours they put into their special cars.

## Extention of the project

Children designed a race track to race small cars in the classroom. They would pretend it was like racing in the gym with their own cars.

