

# tinkergarten®

## AT HOME

### WEEK OF APRIL 27

This Week's Topic: **Unlocking Independent Play**

This Week's Focus: **Transporting Schema**



### The Design Behind this Week

Last week families created some terrific “sticky situations” and gave kids the chance to practice **connecting**, one of a set of brain-boosting [patterns](#) that children repeat in their play. If you've been with us for the past few weeks, you've become great at incorporating the [transforming](#) and [connecting](#) patterns into your child's play.

This week we will turn to what experts call the **transporting pattern**.

### This week's focus: Transporting

This week, the pattern or “schema” of choice is **transporting**. Kids “transport” when they do any (and often all) of the following: gather objects, place them inside something, move them around, unload and repeat. Nearly all of us have seen our little ones stuff their pockets full with acorns, fill bags and bags with random toys, or delight in filling, pushing and dumping the contents of a wagon.

In addition to sparking long stretches of independent play, transporting gives kiddos a great deal of satisfaction as they envision and carry out a task. They also strengthen physical skills like fine and gross motor, learn lessons about capacity and the relative size of objects and more.

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**WANT MORE ACTIVITIES LIKE THIS?** Head to [tinkergarten.com/athome](https://tinkergarten.com/athome) to join our email list and get a new set of activities sent to your inbox each week!



# Main Activity: Let's Go On An Adventure!

To make transporting even more fun and imaginative, kick off this week by pretending you are going on a “trip” or an adventure (ah, sounds lovely, doesn't it?!)

Then, welcome kids to pack and cart whatever they need for the big journey!

## What you need:

- At least **2 travel bags, one small and one large(r)** (e.g. suitcases, carry-on bags, shopping bags, boxes, backpacks)
- A **place to play** (e.g. yard, neighborhood trail, in your home)

## Steps to take:

### Step 1: Set the stage

Ask kids if they could travel anywhere right now, where would they want to go. It can be a real place or a fantasy spot from their imagination.

### Step 2: Kick off Play Together

Present your child with a small travel bag and discuss what they might need to pack (What will the weather be like? What types of things will they do there?) and let them take the lead packing the bag. (This can be entertaining and offer insights into your kiddo's wild mind.)

Once packing seems to be done, wonder how you'll get there. (Walk through the yard or living room? Trains, planes, automobiles?) Then it's time to cart your bag and pretend to go on your trip!

### Step 3: Transition to Independent Play

Once you are “home”, let kids know it's their turn. Present them with a large travel bag and ask if they would like to fill up a GIANT suitcase for a trip. This should offer an invitation kids will willingly and independently accept!





# Independent Extensions

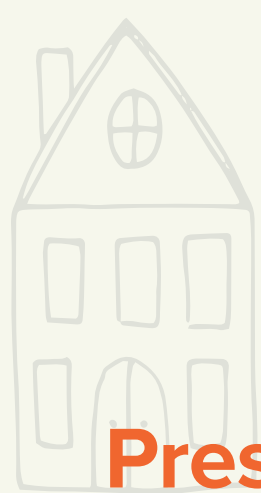
Below you'll find some other ways to inspire transporting, depending on the age and stage of your child.

## Babies/Toddlers

- **Got containers?** Babies love to transfer items from one thing to another. Take some easily graspable objects and different types of containers (metal bowls, buckets, cardboard boxes) and watch as they transport them from one vessel to the other.
- **Got H2O?** Water play! Use a combination of different containers with different scoops to transport water. A turkey baster is also a cool tool for transporting water. If you have some food coloring, add some fun color to the play.
- **Got wheels?** Wagons, strollers, toy school buses, and anything with wheels that you can push, are great for transporting.







## Preschoolers and Up

- **Got an egg carton?** Turn an egg carton into a treasure box and inspire kids to collect, transport and sort tiny treasures. While they're collecting and transporting, they're also making all kinds of connections physically (motor skills), mathematically (patterns, measurement) and cognitively (sorting). Check out a full activity plan [here](#).
- **Got trucks?** Dump truck play = transporting. Whether you're outside working with dirt, or inside and using dump trucks to transport rice, beads, or rubber bands from one place to another, it all involves collecting, scooping, transporting and dumping.
- **Got mail?** Turn a cardboard box or two into a mailbox. Create or gather a few postcards or letters (maybe as part of your adventure travel play!) and let the deliveries begin!
- **Got a basket?** Not all transporting goes around the yard. Pulleys allow kids to transport objects up and down, and they can experiment with how objects of different weights affect the behavior of the pulley. Cause and effect in action! Read more about pulley play [here](#).
- **Got building supplies?** Building a fairy house or hideout for a stuffie is a great project that will have kids gathering and hauling objects as they build. If you want to play outside, get a piece of cardboard as the base, then work together with kids to move all the blocks, Magnatiles or even just Tupperware outside. Build al fresco, adding in nature objects as you go!







## School-Age Kids

- **Got heavy things?** Great. Now find something kids can use to transport them—a wheelbarrow, a wagon, a sled, a cookie sheet, a wheeled suitcase, a cart, or anything else you have. Don't have any of the above? You can also welcome kids to make human wheelbarrows or offer piggy backs to move one another from here to there. No matter how, kids will flex mind and body as they do heavy work!
- **No hands?** Challenge kids to move a thing or things from one place to another WITHOUT using their hands. Creativity, problem solving, and persistence will follow.
- **Got eggs?** The tried and true 'egg in the spoon' race is light on materials, heavy on fun, and a great way for older kids to engage in transporting. If there is no one to race against, have kids time themselves and try to beat their best time. There are endless iterations—getting from A to B with something balanced on their head, transporting something while navigating around obstacles, etc.

## Grandparents

Kids and grandparents can work collaboratively to think up an adventure they'd like to go on together and then they can go off on their own to fill their bags and come back together to share what they've packed.



## Share Your Experiences!

Join us LIVE on Tuesday, April 28th on the [Tinkergarten Facebook page](#). Share photos and stories of your experiences and time outside this week using #tinkergarten and #outdoorsall4. Share in our free [#OutdoorsAll4 Facebook](#) group, and we may just feature your photos in next week's email!

## About Tinkergarten

Tinkergarten® is a breakthrough method of raising kids, helping families make the most of early learning years with simple, fun and engaging outdoor play experiences that are designed for learning.