



Gateway to Science

Early Childhood Traveling Trunks

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

The Early Childhood Traveling Trunks are designed to be rented by parents and teachers of children ages 3 – 7. The trunks spark children’s interest to play, explore, and contemplate various science concepts. Adults should be present to organize materials and ask questions that deepen a child’s understanding. Children will gain opportunities to observe, problem-solve, investigate, plan, predict, act, ask, report, and reflect on their developing knowledge.

Many materials are provided in the trunks. However, it is expected that the renter also supplies some materials, though most are likely to be readily available in your home or school, such as paper, markers, measuring cups, etc.

Most trunks may be rented for 2 weeks. However, the Butterflies and From Field to Table trunks may be rented for 6 weeks because some activities in those trunks take a longer period of time to complete.

TERMS AND FEES

- The fee to rent any Early Childhood trunk is \$10. To reserve a trunk, an agreement must be signed by the renter and Gateway to Science. Payment must accompany this agreement in order to reserve dates.
- In addition, a \$10 refundable deposit check is required at the time of pick-up. This deposit will be returned after the contents of the trunk are satisfactorily checked and the renter’s evaluation has been received.
- A replacement fee will be charged for any damaged or missing materials if the damage is greater than the deposit amount.
- If a renter reserves a trunk and cancels less than two weeks prior to the pick-up date, the deposit will be forfeited.
- A late fee of \$10 applies to all trunks returned after the due date.
- Due to the fragility of some trunk contents, we do not ship trunks; they must be picked up.
- General maintenance costs are covered in the above fees.



Turn this sheet over to see a description of each Early Childhood Traveling Trunk.

DESCRIPTION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAVELING TRUNKS

Butterflies

This trunk is all about butterflies. Some of the activities include a Lifecycle Puzzle, Butterfly Photography, Count & Sort Game, Butterfly Matching Game, Sequencing Cards, and more. The highlight of this trunk is the live butterfly garden, with which the children will see real, live butterflies go through all stages from tiny larvae to adult butterfly. Also included are several books, webquests, journaling pages, coloring sheets, and more.

Force and Motion

This discovery trunk contains many activities to help children learn about force and motion. It includes information, materials, and activities on Up/Down and Back/Forth Motion, Water Bottle Bowling, Catapults, Airzookas, Gravity Dropping Station, and Balancing. It also includes additional activities, books, webquests, poetry, and more.

From Field to Table

Children will learn about plants and how they are grown. Some of the lessons are From Seed to Plant, Farm Machines, Look at Those Roots, Pancakes Pancakes, How Are the Seeds Same & Different, and more. There are also ideas for arts & crafts, cooking, dramatic play, finger plays, math, science, poetry, social studies, sensory activities, music, and others.

It's Raining, It's Pouring!

The activities in this trunk teach about rain, clouds, rainbows, fronts, and other weather phenomena. Some of the lessons include Weather Reporting Dramatic Play, Eye-dropper Painting, Cloud Making, Measuring with a Rain Gauge, Rainbows, and more. Some webquests, books, and additional activities, such as Airaloons, are also included.

States of Matter

The main concepts of this trunk are the properties of the three main states of matter and how temperature affects physical changes. Materials and information are included for many activities, including Koolaid Popsicles, Ice Painting, Homemade Butter, Bubbles, Gas Balloon, and more. There are also additional resources, such as poetry and information on science inquiry.

The Five Senses

This trunk includes activities on the five senses: touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing. Some of the activities included are Tongue Tasting, Magnify It, Mystery Noises, Sensory Painting, Your Nose Knows, and many more. Also included are many books, some webquests, and journal articles.

Water Works

Through participating in the activities included in this trunk, children will learn about the uses, forms, purposes, and reactions of water, as well as some water sports. Some of the activities included are Bubble Prints, Wet Chalk Drawings, Sidewalk Painting, Freezing and Water Vapor, and Insta-Snow. There are also webquests, fingerplays, and additional activities.