LEARNING BENEFIT: CREATIVE PLAY IS SERIOUSLY IMPORTANT FOR KIDS!

Thomas and his friends Nia, Percy, Kana, and Diesel spend their days playing with one another! Creative play is super important for preschoolers’ (and tank engines’) brains, bodies, and well being. When kids use their imagination to create something new, they are learning to experiment, improvise, and take risks, all important parts of being a life-long learner. Plus, it’s a blast!

ACTIVITY: DIY TRAIN TRACKS

You and your child can use familiar objects in a TOOTally new and unexpected way to create life-size train tracks.

1. Choose and collect materials for your tracks. Wonder with your child, “What would make good tracks?” Pillows, ribbons, newspapers, sneakers, blankets - let your imagination go wild!

2. Pick where you want to lay down the tracks - through a room, the whole house, or outside.

3. Take turns laying down one piece of the track at a time. Teamwork makes the dream work!

4. Once your track is complete, pretend you’re a train from “Thomas & Friends: All Engines Go”. Chug along your homemade railroad and take turns leading the trains in creative ways. Can you hop on one foot? Link arms with each other? Go backwards? What else?

Cartoonito Extra: Dress up as your favorite engine as you choo-choo through your homemade tracks. Create a train costume with cardboard boxes or wear blue to be Thomas, green to be Percy, black to be Diesel, orange to be Nia, or purple to be Kana. Or wear a combination of colors to become an engine created by you and your little tank engine!