

THEME: Thomas and Friends

'Down by the station early in the morning see the little puffer trains all in a row' and lots more in this train themed Programme.

An introductory activity can be used as the Squirrels arrive at the meeting place – colouring or simple puzzles can keep children occupied until all the Drey arrives or use a 'joining-in' style game, such as 'The farmer wants a wife' or a circle format ball game.

Add snack time where necessary!

TIME (mins)	ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT
5	Welcome, Register, Opening Ceremony, Introduction to Programme	
10	<p>GAME: Shunting Trains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Divide the children into two or more teams, Squirrels stand in a line, one behind the other – they are the goods trains, the child at the front is the 'engine'</i> ○ <i>A Leader or one of the Squirrels can be the Stationmaster and waves the starting flag or scarf to start the engines</i> ○ <i>The engines walk forward to the opposite end of the room, then they walk backwards to the next member of their team</i> ○ <i>The second child, the 'truck', puts their hands on the engine's shoulders and they both walk to the other end and back again, backwards and so on</i> ○ <i>Take care when Squirrels are moving backwards, it might be safer to do this is over a short distance or walk forwards instead!</i> 	Starting flag or scarf
10	<p>GAME: All Aboard!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Drey sits in a circle on the floor, choose one child to be the 'driver' who walks around the outside of the circle tapping other Squirrels on the head at random</i> ○ <i>The Squirrels who are tapped join on behind the 'driver', continue until all the Squirrels are aboard</i> ○ <i>The train then moves on around the track and the Leader calls out instructions</i> ○ <i>Slow train – walk slowly</i> ○ <i>Express train – run</i> ○ <i>Station – everyone sits back on the floor in a circle and another 'driver' is chosen!</i> 	None
10	<p>STORY: Read one of the stories from the delightful 'My Thomas Story Library' published by Egmont and based on The Railway Series by Rev. W. Awdry featuring Thomas the Tank Engine. There are 65 mini books of Thomas and his friends to choose from, each with their own exciting adventure! Visit www.thomasandfriends.com for further information!</p>	Story book



10	<p>ACTIVITY: Train Track Frieze The Squirrels can make a giant train track with lots of colourful pictures of their favourite characters from the Thomas stories! Or cut out and stick on pictures of trains from magazines or travel brochures, Squirrels can add scenery, animals, etc.</p>	Roll of wallpaper Art materials Magazine pictures, glue
10	<p>GAME: Trains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>All the Squirrels go behind the Leader holding on to the waist of the child in front. Larger numbers may prefer to make several trains!</i> ○ <i>The Leader demonstrates various actions and then calls out instructions at random as they jog around the room:</i> ○ <i>Stop – trains stop to let on pretend passengers</i> ○ <i>Express – go very fast</i> ○ <i>Cow on the line – emergency stop!</i> ○ <i>Into tunnel – all bend forwards from the waist</i> ○ <i>Out of tunnel – stand upright again</i> ○ <i>Level crossing – call ‘whoo whoo!’</i> ○ <i>Collect the post – stick out right arms as though grabbing a postbag!</i> 	None
5	Closing, Home	

