Ideas to Go

Here are some great activities for you to do with your child on-the-go! These easy-to-do ideas are fun ways for you to help your child learn math and literacy concepts no matter where you are — doing things around the house or running errands in your town or neighborhood.

On the Bus, Subway, or Train

People on the Bus | Math
Ask: How many people are on the bus? How many empty seats are there? Guess how many people will get on at the next stop and how many will get off.

Subway Study | Math
Study the subway map with your kid. How many stops until you reach your stop? Do you need to transfer to another line? Point out and talk about other places you have traveled to on the subway and let your kid trace the route.

The 411 about 911 | Literacy
Teach your kid how to dial 911, and how to speak their name and address clearly. If you have a portable phone or cell phone, show them how it works. There are usually more buttons to press, and these phones can be very tricky for little kids.

The Right Route | Math
Show your kid how to look for the correct route number on the bus. Make a guess -- how many buses, or how many (red) cars do you think will go by before your bus comes?

The Train Now Leaving | Literacy
Pretend to be an announcer on the public address system. Hold your nose and say things that no one can really understand, and see if the others can guess what you're saying. Take turns, otherwise your eyes might water too much from holding your nose.

The Writing is on the Wall | Literacy
Look for signs and labels, especially ones in your neighborhood, to show that reading for meaning (not just for fun) is important. Talk about the "environmental print" (the words around you) whenever you travel with your kids.

Transit Transaction | Math
How do you pay for the bus or subway? Do you swipe a card or buy a ticket at a machine or abooth? Let your kid help with the transaction. Talk about process and price.

Who Lives There? | Literacy
Look at the cities on the destination board and talk about what life is like in those other places. What do the kids there do for fun? What's the weather like? What names are popular there? If you don't know the answers, guess!