

Talking zig-zags

Guidance notes – how to make the most of your zig-zags

The talking zig-zags have been designed to help promote communication and discussion with children. This resource will allow you to make two talking zig-zags. One is based on the song “The Wheels on the Bus”, and the other encourages children to look around them and talk about what they can see when they are out and about.

Start by following these simple instructions:

1. Print out the resource (you may need to check your printer settings to ensure the panels are of equal size).
2. Cut along the dotted line to separate the two talking zig-zags and then fold each one three times, along the black lines.
3. If you would like to attach the talking zig-zags to a buggy or car seat, use a hole-punch or scissors to make a hole in the top left-hand corner of each one. Use string or something similar to tie them on.
4. To make your talking zig-zags last longer glue them onto stiff card.

This resource can be used in a number of ways:

- Attach one or both talking zig-zags to a buggy frame. When you are out and about with a child sing “The Wheels on the Bus” with them or talk to them about what they can see.
- Once children are used to looking out for objects extend the activity by asking them to find certain colours and shapes. For example “Can you spot something that is blue?” or “Can you see a triangle anywhere?”
- This resource includes simple images with clean lines. Ask children to trace along the lines with their fingers. Practising these fine motor skills will help them when they start mark-making.
- Childminders often need to entertain younger children in the car when they’re on the school run to collect older children. Attach one or both of the talking zig-zags to car seats to give children something to do while they are waiting in the car.
- Some children like to dawdle as they go from place to place! Use this resource to encourage children along the pavement towards your destination. Ask them to keep walking to find the next dog or to stand next to the street sign further along the pavement.
- If you are an early years practitioner why not print some out to give to parents and carers? Once you have explained how they can be used, parents and carers may be keen to attach the talking zig-zags to their own buggy or car seat.

Originally created for Talk to Your Baby, with help from Lucy Giffen, a Childminder from Croydon.

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