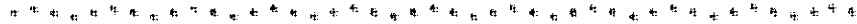


**Mom's Minivan O' Fun
Car Travel Activities for Kids**



Time flies when you're having fun! You can make a car trip, short or long, a lot more enjoyable if you have fun with your kids along the way. Here are a few car game ideas to get you started:

Semi Search

The object of this game is to spot all the 18 Wheelers that come roaring past you on the highway. Each player selects a color. The first to see 10 big rigs in his or her color wins. Tip: select from white, black, green, red, yellow, or blue. Double your fun and play Air Horn at the same time. If you get a truck in your color to honk at you, you automatically win. How do you get a big rig to blow a horn at you? When you pass a big truck, with your fist clenched, make a pulling down motion while smiling at the truck driver. If you're lucky, he'll pull his air horn and toot back at you!

Scavenger Hunt

Give each child a list of items to watch for while driving. The list can be made up ahead of time and adjusted for the scenery. Here's a sample list of items to hunt for:

- school
- library
- cemetery
- grocery store
- someone on a bike
- statue
- church
- playground
- flower garden
- pickup truck
- dog in a car



Counting Cows

Count the cows you see on your side of the car. If you pass a cemetery on your side of the car, you lose all your cows. The one with the most cows at the end of the car ride wins.

Guess How Far Away That Is

Pick an object and have everyone guess how far away it is, then clock it on your odometer. Who ever guesses closest to the correct distance wins, and gets to pick the next object.

The Alphabet Game

Start with the letter "A" and find one on a sign, truck, building or license plate, say the word and then move on to the next letter. You can do this as a competition or together as a family for the younger beginning readers. The first one to get to the letter "Z" is the winner!

Magnetic Board Games

Do your children know how to play classic board games like Chess, Backgammon, Checkers or Chinese Checkers? What better time to learn than in the car to pass the time! The magnetic car versions of these games are nice because they are small and compact and have easy ways to store the pieces so they don't get lost.

Games courtesy of www.travelingtoday.com and www.familytravelgames.com.