



## Group Activity: Art – Name Train

### Objective:

This activity pairs gross motor skills with shape and pattern recognition to practice independence and fine motor skills as students follow a sequence of tasks to create a piece of art.

### Materials:

- Train template (provided)
- Black markers (1 per student)
- Construction paper (black and assorted colors)
- Blue construction paper (1 11x17" sheet per student)
- Cotton Balls
- Crayons or markers
- Paper plates (1 per student)
- Glue
- Scissors

### Example:



**Duration:** 15 minutes

### Preparation:

1. Print, laminate, and cut out the train template (1 set per student).
2. Cut 2" x 2" squares out of assorted colored construction paper (1 square for each letter of students' names).
3. Cut circles out of black construction paper (5-8 per student)
4. Set aside an extra set of materials for you to use as you demonstrate the activity.
5. Create a name train for reference; place the model in a location visible to all students (see activity script below).
6. Provide each student with construction paper, paper plate, pre-cut squares and circles, template, crayons, glue, cotton balls, and black markers.

#### TEACH INDEPENDENCE

- Students should complete the art project as independently as possible. Provide physical assistance when needed, but encourage the student to work independently.
- Place art materials in separate containers. Encourage students to gather their materials prior to the art activity.

#### IDEAS TO ENCOURAGE SOCIAL/COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Place students in groups of two to create a shared art project.
- Throughout the activity, encourage descriptive conversation about each name train (the colors, shapes, and letters).
- Encourage students to notice their peers' artwork and show others their completed project.



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### Activity Script:

*We recommend using the following verbal cues as you model each step.*

- 1. “Today we are going to make our own name train traveling down the railroad tracks.”**  
[Indicate the finished model.]
- 2. “Take a look at my train. What colors do you see on my train? What shapes? What letters?”**  
[Point to your finished name train and the template pieces. Encourage students to identify the shapes, colors, and letters.]
- 3. “The first step to make our train is to draw the train tracks at the bottom of our big blue piece of paper. We will use the black marker to make the lines. First, make a long line on the very bottom of the paper. It will go from one end to the other.”**  
[Model drawing a long line on the bottom of the blue sheet of paper.]
- 4. “Now, make another long line—about this far above the long line you just drew.”**  
[Indicate 1 ½ -2 inches with your fingers or other manipulative.]
- 5. “To finish our train tracks, we need to make a lot of short lines going between our two long lines. Watch me and then you try.”**  
[Model finishing the track on the bottom of the blue sheet of paper.]
- 6. “We are now going to make the train engine. Pick out your favorite color of paper. Trace the engine of the train on this piece of paper. Look at me: this template is the engine. When you’re done tracing, cut the shape out and put it on your paper plate.”**  
[Indicate the train engine shape and demonstrate tracing it on a piece of paper and then cutting it out.]
- 7. “Next pick another color of paper for the front of the engine. Find the triangle shape and trace around it on this second color of paper. When you’re done tracing, cut the shape out and put it on your paper plate.”**  
[Indicate the triangle shape and demonstrate tracing it on a piece of paper and then cutting it out.]
- 8. “Now pick another color of paper for the train’s window and smoke stack. Find the small square and the small rectangle and trace around them on this third color of paper. When you’re done tracing, cut the shapes out and put them on your paper plate.”**  
[Indicate the square and rectangle shapes and demonstrate tracing them on a piece of paper and then cutting them out.]
- 9. “Next, we are going to put our name trains together. Take your engine piece from your paper plate. We are going to glue it to the front of the train tracks on your piece of blue paper. Watch me and then you try.”**  
[Demonstrate gluing the engine shape to the left side of your blue paper.]



## On the Go

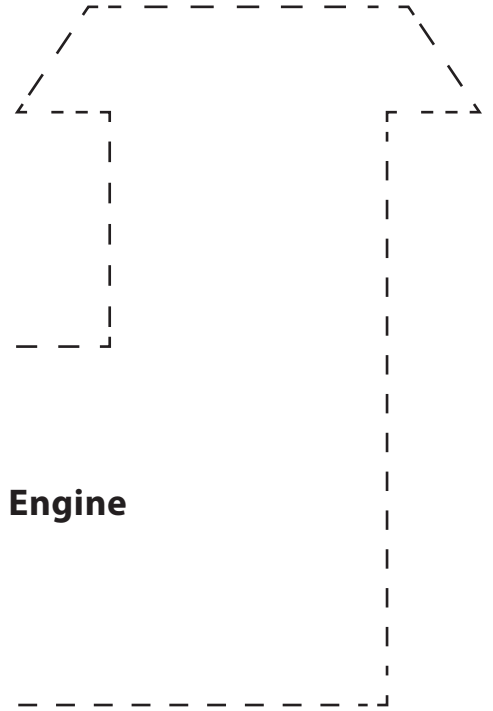
### Group Activity: Art – Name Train

10. **“Next, we are going to add the pieces to the engine. The small triangle will go on the front of the train, like this. Watch me and then you try.”**  
[Model gluing the small triangle to the front of the train engine.]
11. **“The window of the engine goes here. Now you glue yours on.”**  
[Demonstrate gluing the small square onto the train engine.]
12. **“The last part of the engine is the smoke stack. It will go on top of the train engine, like this. Now you put yours on.”**  
[Indicate the finished model and model gluing the circle onto the top of the train engine.]
13. **“Now we are going to put our name on the train. Find the small squares in front of you—these are your box cars. The first letter of your name will go on the engine, and the remaining letters will go on the squares: one letter on each box car.”**  
[Show students the letters of your name on your finished model.]
14. **“Next, glue the lettered box cars on the train track behind the engine, making sure you spell your name correctly.”**  
[Assist students as needed.]
15. **“The last step is to add the black circle wheels to your train. Watch me, and then you try.”**  
[Demonstrate gluing circles to the bottom of your train. Use more wheels for longer names.]
16. **“Now let’s look at each other’s name trains!”**  
[Allow students to get a closer look at your model and prompt them to walk around to look at others.]

# TRAIN TEMPLATE

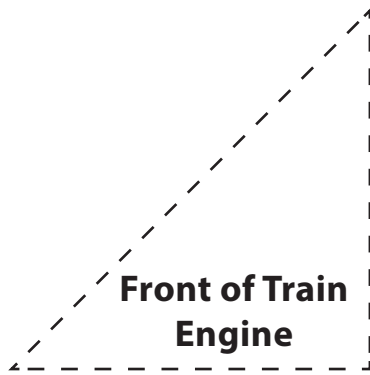


Train Engine: to be traced on 1st color



**Train Engine**

Front of Train Engine: to be traced on 2nd color



**Front of Train Engine**

Smoke Stack: to be traced on 3rd color



**Smoke Stack**

Wheels: to be traced on black paper



**Large Wheels**



**Small Wheels**

Window: to be traced on 3rd color



**Window**