



TIPS FOR ENJOYING (OR SURVIVING) CAR TRIPS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

(from Shellharbour City Council staff)

- Keep a journal and collect tickets and brochures of things that you see and do on the way to stick in.
- Draw pictures and write stories of things that you see along the way.
- Take pictures of things that start with every letter of the alphabet .
- Play guess a number between 1 and 100, each person gets to guess what number it is, person who is in gets to pick a number and tells them either higher or lower until they get it.
- Make up a silly story or sentence. Each person says a word to make up a silly sentence.
- 'I Spy' games can while away quite a bit of time.
- Adding and subtracting numbers (to make it easy we only used numbers between 1 and 10 but it would depend on the age of the child). We also used the numbers on number plates to add or subtract with.
- Sight words - choose a sight word, spell it and make up a sentence using it.
- What/who/where am I? Guessing game for an item or thing or place, eg "I wear a red suit and I ride a sleigh and say ho ho ho. Who am I?"
- Make up a song.
- Sing songs.
- Learn the times tables.
- Count by 2s, 5s 10s etc.
- Count forwards and backwards from 100.
- Have a box for interesting things that are collected along the way - rocks, shells, leaves, feathers.
- Read the street signs and tally up the number of new signs that they read.
- Have a bag of things to play with in the back seat - dolls, puppets, cars, pencils, paper, books, camera, mp3 player.
- Take plenty of snacks and water, eg. fruit, carrot or celery sticks, cheese, nuts and sultanas so they have something to munch on when they get hungry (or bored). Avoid lollies or soft drinks as children can get agitated in the car with too much sugar.
- Have plenty of stops and find a playground for them to run off some steam before getting back in the car.
- Count the number of cars/trucks that go past.
- Smile and wave at people as you drive along and see if they wave back .
- Audio books which can be borrowed from the library (most are very tolerable for adults too).
- Count the number of horses, cows etc. you see from one destination to another - some children may also like to write them down.
- Get them to operate the Nav Man.
- Give them an issue of a car magazine and get them to find the cars they see in it .
- Wiggles, Hi 5 and Play School music for them to sing along to.
- Etch-a-sketches (try drawing what you can see).
- The hand-held Leapster game, this lasts for hours, is educational and children can swap games with each other .
- A portable DVD player.

