

# Airplane Project



Pre-K  
August-September 2006

# An Airplane Trip to New York

During center time, two children worked together to build an airplane. They began by laying out the large hollow blocks into an airplane that measured 11 feet.

*We're going to make a cool airplane.*



They added details by placing small wooden blocks on the plane.

*The airplane is not finished.*

*Oh, I see what we need.*

*These are ambulanders. These are the squangulars and they help the airplane fly.*



# An Airplane Trip to New York

Soon other children noticed and wanted to join in.

*Hey, you want to help us build it?*



They decided they would fly to New York. \*\*\*\* was going to New York to shoot elk. \*\*\*\* and \*\*\*\* made up songs about the airplane and sang as they worked.

*They're going to give me a ride to New York. I'm going to shoot elks.*

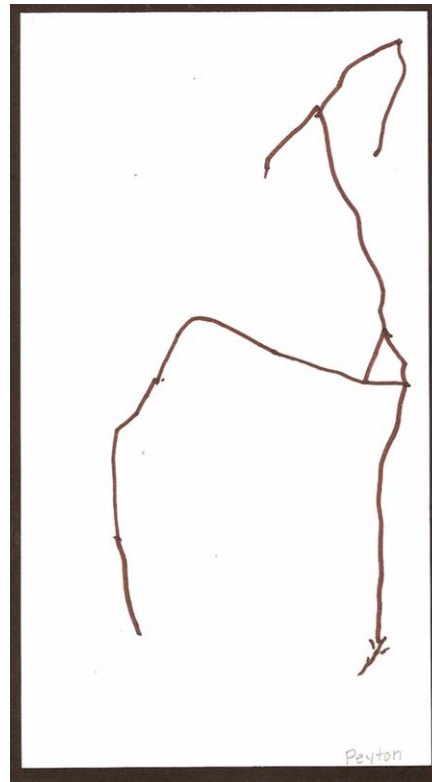
*I'm going to New York with their airplane.*



# An Airplane Trip to New York

\*\*\*\* went over to the writing center to draw an elk, and brought the picture back to the block center to show the teacher and the other children.

*Hey, this is the kind of elks I'm going to shoot.*



\*\*\*\* brought chairs over to the plane for the children to sit in during their flight.

*I'm taking off! Hey! Get on the airplane!*

*Okay, we're at New York City.*



# What We Know About Airplanes

A group discussion that took place on August 25, 2006

*People ride in them.*

*People drive them.*

*They crash in water or grass.*

*People fall out of planes with parachutes.*

*They have toilets.*

*Parents ride in them.*

*They have wings.*

*They have controls.*

*They have buttons.*

*They have lights.*

# How Does an Airplane Fly?

A group discussion that took place on September 7, 2006

*Tell us about airplanes.*

Peyton: "They have wings. They have anglers."

Tas'Janna: "They ride with wheels."

*Do you know what makes an airplane fly?*

All: "Wings!"

Harper: "No, the wing doesn't. The wheels run faster and then it flies off. The propeller makes it stay up. If the propeller stops it comes down."

Tas'Janna: "Then when these stop they go bam!"

*What does that mean?*

Tas'Janna: "Then they crash."

*What happens when they crash?*

TW: "When the plane crashes down the anglers break off."

*What do the anglers do?*

Avery: "They make it fly."

TW: "The anglers go up."

Owen: "The anglers go this way."

*Do you know how airplanes fly?*

Peyton: "Only me!"

*How do they stay up in the air?*

Peyton: "The anglers make them."

*How high do you think airplanes fly?*

Avery: "Real high!"

Peyton: "50 foot."

Harper: Stands with hand above head, "This high!"

Davis: "They can fly all the way up into the air."

Owen: "100 feet."

Avery: "A lot of hundreds!"

Owen: "A thousand! A thousand."  
"A thousand one hundred feet."

# Constructing Airplanes with Lego Blocks

Each of the children constructed an airplane with small and large Lego blocks.

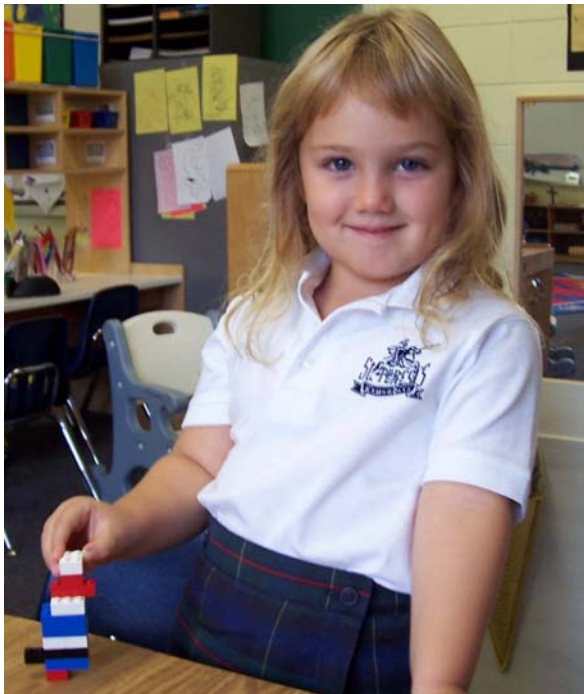
*The two back things sweep the grass. The motor will turn on. My plane will fly.*



*Mine got wings and flies and blasts, with a driver seat and the pilot.*



*My airplane is huge. It is so big. It has its own heater and a person on the front.*



*It flied to New York.*



*This airplane flips.*

# Constructing Airplanes with Lego Blocks

*It takes off together.*



*It has wings but it falls apart. It can stretch its wings open. See the wings stretched open.*



*It flied to New York City and has no more gas.*

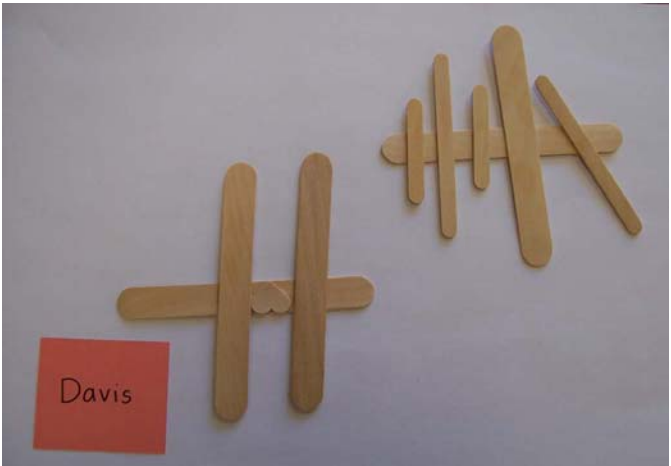
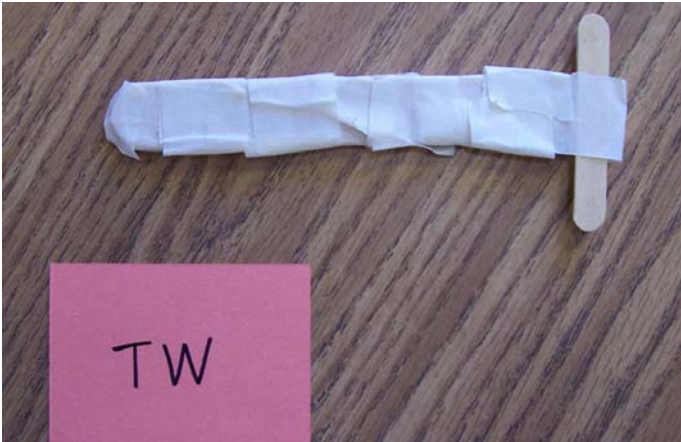
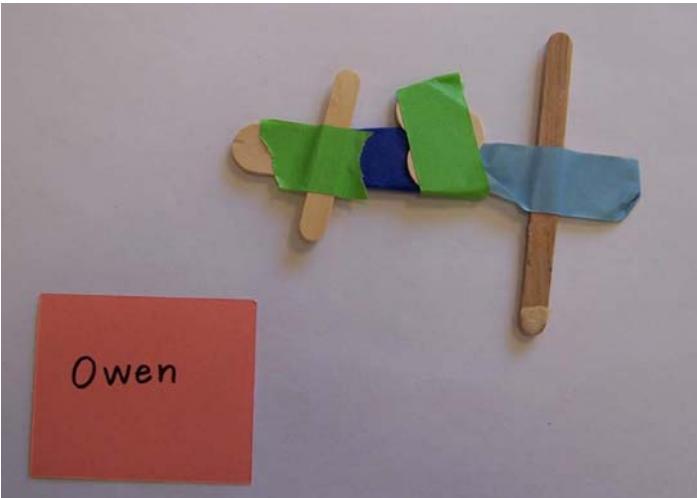
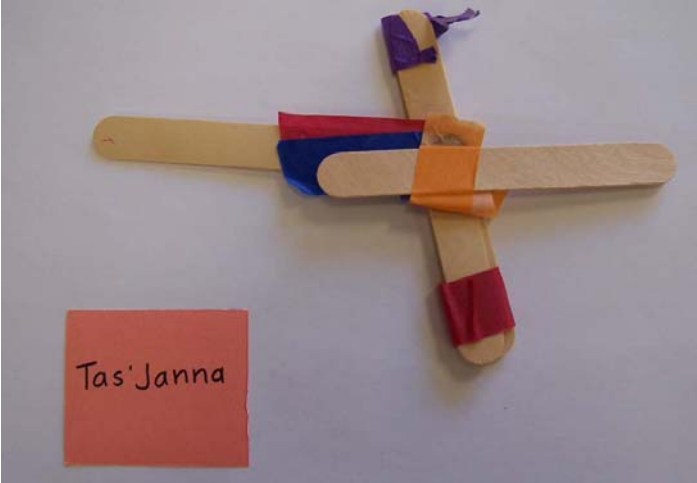


*My airplane has a motor and the pilot is driving. It's going to New York City.*

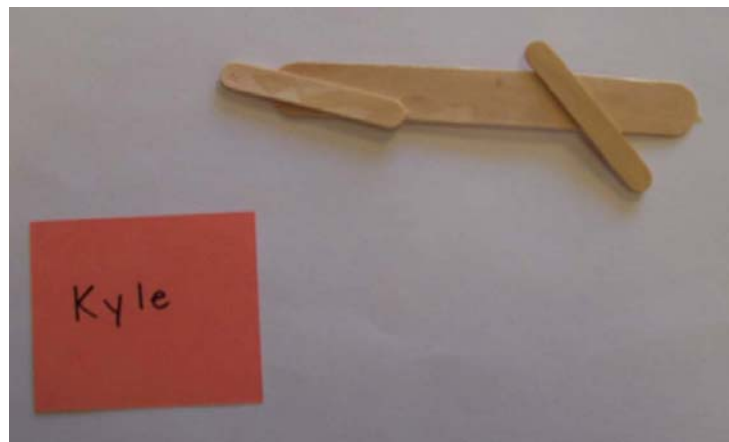
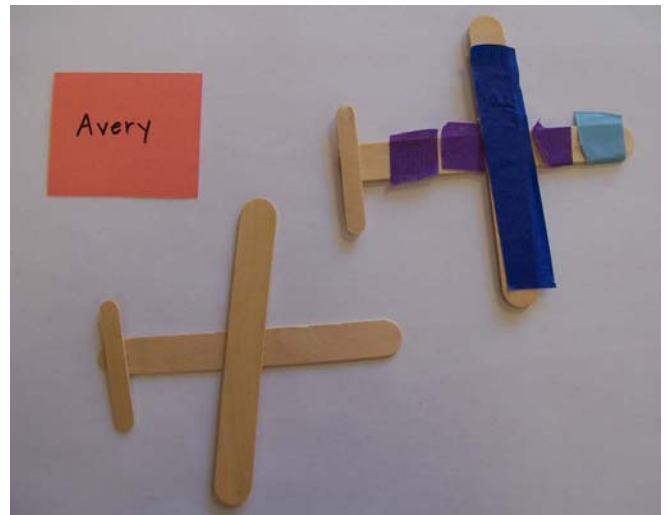
*This airplane flies up to the sky and it goes down and crash and it can still move.*

# Constructing Airplanes with Wood

The children were offered different sizes of wooden craft sticks, a variety of wooden craft shapes, and glue to construct an airplane. Constructing the wooden planes required creativity and problem solving. Some of the children decided that masking tape would help them construct their airplanes better than the glue.



# Constructing Airplanes with Wood



# Controlling an Airplane

Children controlled a virtual airplane on Ohio State University's website *Science Fun with Airplanes*. They used the computer mouse to click the buttons "Bank Right" and "Bank Left" to make the airplane fly to the right and to the left. They clicked "Pitch Up" and "Pitch Down" to make the airplane fly up and down. They soon discovered that they could even make the airplane fly off the computer screen.



Tas'Janna: Clicked the "Pitch Up" button to move the airplane up.  
She moved the airplane up so high, it went off the screen.

Kyle: *"It disappeared."*  
*"Click the rudder down. See what happens."*

Tas'Janna: Moved the rudder right and left to turn the plane.

Peyton: *"Let's do it right off the screen."*

Tas'Janna: Flew the plane up again.

# Airplane Drawings

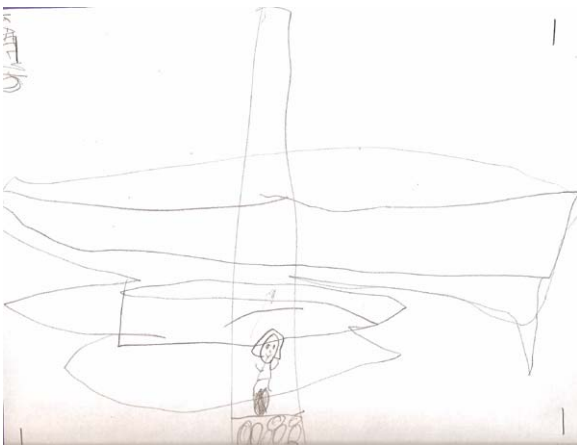
The children looked at many photos of real airplanes to see all of the parts of planes and different designs of planes. They used colored pens and thin markers to draw their own representations of airplanes.



*That's the motor and that hooked and flies. It is flying to America to the beach.*  
-Kyle



*My airplane has a wing and some wheels. Somebody broke it and its tore up.*  
-Tas'Janna

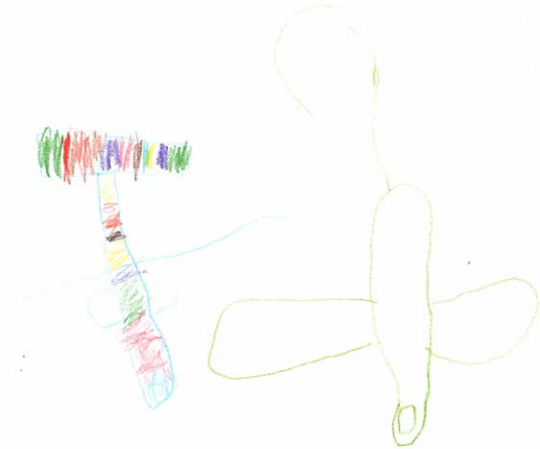


*It has a lot of buttons. It won't fly. It got broken.*  
-Kaitlyn



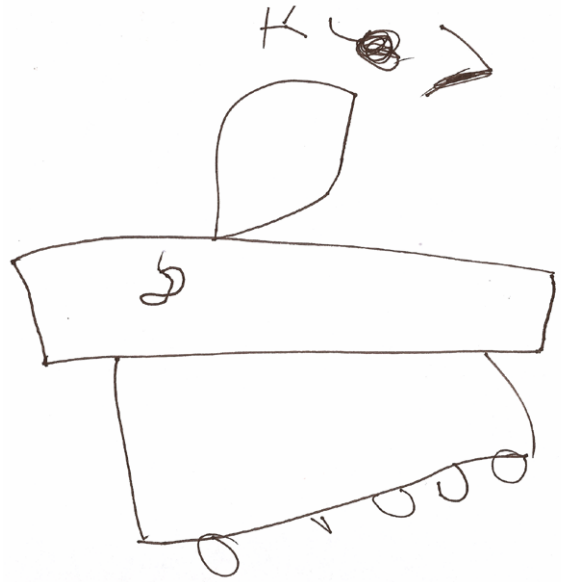
*That's the people. I made a mustache on the pilot. It's got wheels.*  
-Peyton

# Airplane Drawings



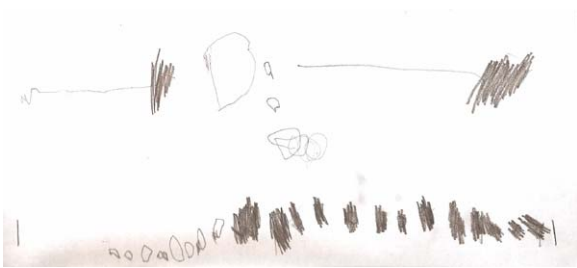
*This is my airplane and they crash together because they too close.*

*-Avery*



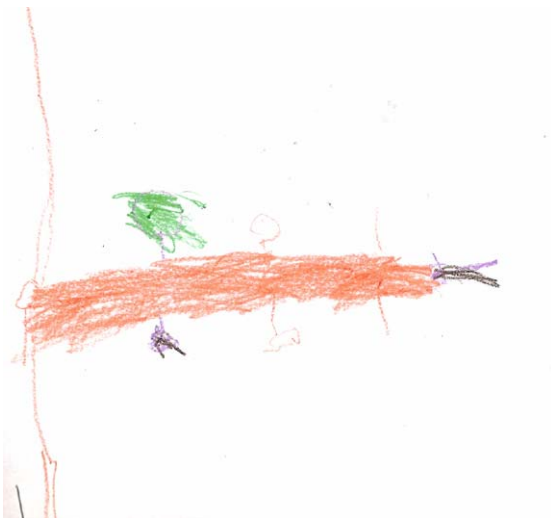
*There's the man driving the airplane.*

*-Harper*

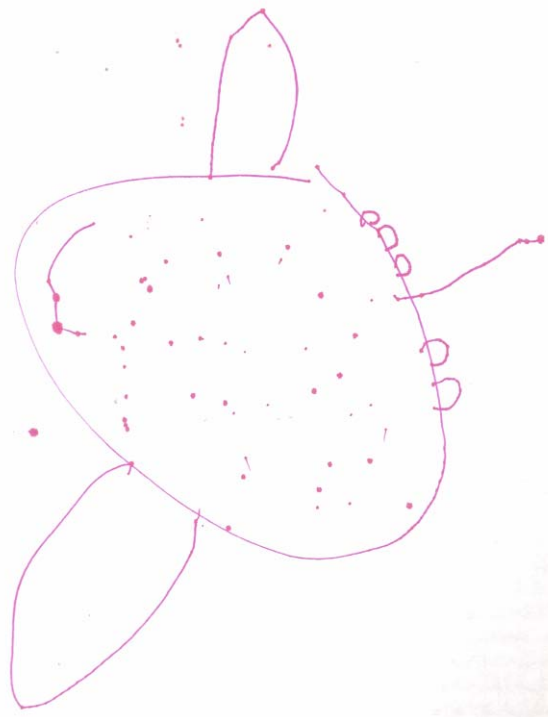


*It has 9 wheels. This has a big steering wheel. I'm coloring up the windows because it's dark outside.*

*-Davis*



*-TW*



*My airplane has all kinds of books.*

*-Elise*

# How Many Airplanes Did We See?

Before the airplane project began, the children were noticing many airplanes and jets flying over our playground during outside time. We made a chart to keep track of how many airplanes we saw each day. The children were often seen counting the planes on the chart. After the children decided to end the airplane project, they were still interested in charting airplanes.

