

Air Travel Read-Aloud Outline

Why not give your Read-Aloud kids a thrill by sending them on an airplane "flight"? Print out boarding passes and set up the room like an airplane by laying carpet squares in rows like airplane seats. Ask the children to check in with their boarding pass, fasten their imaginary seat belts and fly to a glorious destination. Offer an in-flight snack of pretzel sticks.



Miss Mouse Takes Off by Jan Ormerod

Ages 3 to 6

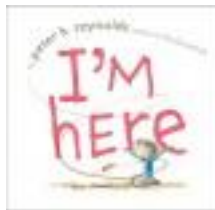
The little girl brings her stuffed mouse on an airplane ride. They go through security and entertain themselves on the long trip to get to Grandma.



Amazing Airplanes by Tony Mitton

Ages 3 to 6

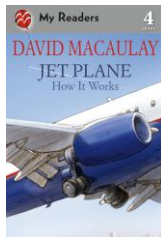
Rhyming text introduces airplanes, with information about how planes fly, safety rules, in-flight entertainment and air traffic control.



Here I Am by Peter H. Reynolds

Ages 4 and up

In a crowded park, a boy makes an airplane out of a piece of paper carried to him by a gentle breeze. He sends it on its way, and a new friend brings it back.



Jet Plane: How It Works by David MacCauley and Sheila Keenan

Ages 6 to 10

David MacCauley, famous for nonfiction illustrated books, such as *The Way Things Work*, brings his easy-to-understand style to this early reader about how jets work.

More airplane books

A is for Airplane / A es para Avion by Theresa Howell (Ages 3 to 5)

This bilingual alphabet board book is great, but its small size means it is best for small groups.

Airplanes by Byron Barton (Ages 3 to 5)

Barton combined brief text with large, colorful illustrations. This is a great first airplane book.

Take Off! by Ryan Ann Hunter (Ages 3 to 6)

Colorful illustrations and easy-to-understand text covers the history of air travel and some monumental flights in history.

How People Learned to Fly by Fran Hodgkins (Ages 4 and up)

A part of the Let's-Read-And-Find-Out series, this book explains how humans learned to fly, starting with the Greeks and ending at the modern day.

Airplane: Machines at Work by Caroline Bingham (Ages 5 to 10)

This nonfiction book explains the various aspects of air travel including the vehicles seen around an airport, the particulars of a pilot's job and air traffic control.

Activities

1. Pretend that the Read-Aloud space is an airport and airplane.
 - Give children their very own boarding pass for the flight (<http://bit.ly/11GBY0L>). Ask each child to state his name and issue a name tag after "scanning" each boarding pass. Taking attendance is fun when disguised as the boarding process!.
 - Send the kids through security. Everyone can empty their pockets and pretend to go through the scanner..
 - Have each child get settled in her own seat (carpet mat) and secure her imaginary seat belts before takeoff.
2. Make and decorate airplanes out of Popsicle sticks and clothespins (<http://www.parents.com/fun/arts-crafts/kid/simple-wood-crafts/?rb=Y#page=4>), or buy simple wooden airplanes from a dollar store. Decorate with markers, foam shapes, etc.
4. Make airplanes out of straws and strips of paper. They're easier to make than paper airplanes and fly just as well. Here is a link with instructions: <http://www.allfortheboys.com/home/2011/8/25/move-over-paper-airplanes.html>.
5. Make paper airplanes, then decorate and fly them. Which models fly the farthest? This activity is most successful with kids aged seven and older. For reference and folding instructions, try ***Fun and Easy Paper Airplanes*** by Andrew Dewar and ***The Paper Airplane Book*** by Seymour Simon. Or print out some designs from <http://www.10paperairplanes.com/>.

Conversation Starters

Have you ever flown on an airplane?

What is the best part about flying?

What is the worst part (or scariest part) about flying?

If you could travel anywhere, where would you like to go?

Would you like to be a pilot? A flight attendant? An aeronautical engineer?

What things are you not allowed to take on an airplane?

What things would be good to take to keep you busy?

What is the farthest place you think you could travel to on a plane? Why must some planes stop and refuel during long flights?

What is jet lag? Why does it happen? Has anyone ever experienced jet lag? What are some ways to deal with jet lag?