

# Leverage Learners' Interests

Learners with ASD often have special interests they can spend much of their time focused on. Consider how to use their passion to create opportunities for learning and connecting with others.

## MASON IS 8, AND LOVES TRAINS! HERE ARE SOME WAYS/IDEAS TO LEVERAGE HIS INTEREST.



### MOTIVATE

- First complete academic task, then have time to play with train.
- First play with trucks, then watch video about trains.
- Answer math questions involving trains.
- Learn transportation vocabulary.



### CONNECT/COMMUNICATE

- Ask for access to train-related items.
- Work on a project with a peer who is also interested in trains.
- Draw trains on cards for the class to celebrate special occasions.
- Practice saying hello and good morning, as a ticket sale person would greet travelers.



### BROADEN INTERESTS, SKILLS, AND UNDERSTANDING

- Learn about money, by pretending to buy tickets.
- Learn about time, by examining the train schedule.
- Learn about emotions, through a train story.
- Learn about mechanics, and transport of goods to communities.



### ENHANCE LEISURE ACTIVITIES

- Learn to research information about trains and related topics.
- Play transportation-themed games and puzzles.



### DEVELOP EMPLOYABILITY AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

- Learn about all the jobs that are needed to make the train run.
- Create an ornament to be sold at school fair.

