Robots Theme for Preschool
From Miss Cheryl at Preschool Plan It

This theme includes preschool lesson plans, activities and Interest Learning Center ideas for your Preschool Classroom!

On the following pages you’ll find:

- Themed Activities for Your Interest Learning Centers
- Bot Shape Matching File Folder Game
- Bolt, Nut, Washer, Screw (ABCD pattern) Calendar Pieces
- Clay Creation Dough
- Activity Mat #1: Create A Bot (for playdough or dry erase markers)
- Playdough/Activity Mat #2: Create A Robot
- I’m A Little Robot Song Poster & Song Card

Let the Robot Theme Planning Begin!
Gear Painting
Materials Needed: Plastic gears and paint.

Place a pencil in the hole of the gears. The children press the gear into paint (that is in shallow trays) and press them onto paper, much like stamping. If you don’t have gears, use sponges that are gear shaped! These look awesome printed as well.

Bolt & Screw Painting
Materials needed: Actual screws and bolts, a shallow tray or box cover, thinned paint, paper, pipettes

The children place the paper in the tray and then use the pipettes to drop different colors of paint on many areas of the paper. Drop in a couple of bolts and screws and shake the tray left to right, front to back to paint!

Tube-Bots
Materials needed: cardboard tubes (paper towel, toilet paper, gift wrap tubes), pipe cleaners, aluminum foil, miscellaneous arts & crafts supplies, markers.

The children cover the tube with foil. They then use markers and other items to decorate.

Loose Parts Robots
Materials needed: old CDs, milk caps, egg cartons, and any other recycled items you have, glue.

The children create their own robots using the loose parts.
Create a Magnetic Robot

Materials needed: recycled metal cans (such as soup or vegetable cans—thoroughly sanitized and edges taped for safety), small, circular magnets; glue, loose parts (milk caps and other items that small), miscellaneous arts/craft supplies (pony beads, pipe cleaners, etc.).

The children glue the magnets to the backs of the items they choose and stick them to the cans. I.E. placing a magnet on the back of a milk cap and then gluing pony beads to the milk cap! The children can change the look of their robots simply by moving the magnets around on the can.

Emotion Legos

The Lego Company has come out with a Lego Education "Build Me Emotions" brick set that I’m a HUGE fan of! Although any blocks will do to create Robots in your block center, I particularly like these. They add a dimension to discussions based on the faces on the blocks.

What my preschoolers learned and did with this set was amazing! You can read about their fun here on my post!

Foil Bot Buildings

Put boxes of aluminum foil in your block center and let the children have at it!

Provide markers as well! We have seen some pretty incredible buildings, robots and more from the children with just the use of these 2 items!

Ask parents to donate some aluminum foil.

They are available at most dollar type stores!
Circle Time is such a great time for children to learn the social skills of being together as a large group AND to learn more about your Back to School Preschool Activities theme!

**Robot Puppet Discussion**

What exactly ARE Robots anyway?
Hang a large piece of paper up and have a marker ready!
Bring your favorite puppet to Circle Time to discuss Robots. Even better, MAKE a robot puppet using everyday items (such as a paper towel tube, milk caps, etc.).
Use the puppet to encourage the children to talk about robots. Write down their responses.
Some discussion starters are:
What IS a robot?
Have you ever seen one? If so, where?
Do you have one in your house?
Can you make a robot? What would you need?
What makes a robot work?
How does a robot know what to do?
Have the puppet tell them that IT is a robot!
List all of their responses and use them as suggestions on what to provide in your classroom this week!
I’ve heard responses such as “I have a robot cat” to “I have Transformers” to “Wall-E is a robot (the movie Wall-E)” to “My Dad says Mom is a robot without coffee”!

**Wind It Up!**

Provide as many different wind-up toys as you can find! I just love these and they are pretty inexpensive at dollar type and other stores. Also, ask around! Ask families to provide any they are looking to get rid of!

Let the children help wind them up and watch them! They are fun to use! As they are moving, hopping, squeaking around, ask the children how they work? What makes them move, hop, or squeak?

Offer to provide small screwdrivers at Center Time for the children to take some apart or take one apart at circle to show them!
5 Crazy Robots

Create 5 flannel robots and have children take turns putting them on as they repeat the poem with you.
5 noisy robots in the toy shop,

Shiny and tall with antennae on the top.

Along came a girl with a penny one day.

Bought a noisy robot and took it away.

(continue with 4, 3, 2, 1 noisy robots)

I’m A Little Robot
(See the poster and song card in this packet!)
(sung to I’m A Little Teapot)

I’m a little robot, short and strong, (squat and then flex muscles)

Here are my handles, just turn me on. (put fists on hips for handles, then push belly “button”)

When I get all warmed up, watch me go. (walk fast around circle area)

Sometimes fast, sometimes slow. (march in place fast and then slow)

Squiggle Robot Pens

These are pretty amazing pens! We purchased 4 of them and had them at the Writing center! You can find them on Amazon. They are battery operated and lightly shake when turned on! Makes for some fun writing!

Bring them to Circle time with a large piece of paper and have several children draw something on the paper. When all the children have had a turn, hang the picture up as a group robotic creation!

VARIATION: Have the children tape 3 markers or crayons together. Play music and tell them that THEY are the robots and they need to move their hands to the beat as they draw!
Cooking with children helps develop their math skills and helps them to learn how to follow directions. It also allows for some great conversation! Ask many questions while cooking with your children to encourage conversation! Be sure to ask specific themed questions while making these fun snacks!

**Robot Arrangement**

Materials needed: applesauce cups, mini boxes of raisins, juice boxes, plastic spoon, pipe cleaners, googly eyes

This is more a fun thing for you to present to your children at snack! Try to picture this (you could also google “Robot Snacks” to find a picture I’m sure!

Place the juice box on top of 1 mini boxes of raisins (the raisins are the feet).

Balance an applesauce container on top of the juice box.

Glue googly eyes on the applesauce container.

Use pipe cleaners by taping them to the sides of the juice boxes and then bend them in the front to hold the spoon!

**Drama**

**Big Box Robot**

Place a large box in your dramatic play center. Create a door and a couple of windows. From there, just let your children decide how to decorate this as a robot or spaceship this week. Provide miscellaneous arts and crafts and glue or glue sticks, paper, markers, etc. The transformation throughout your theme will be awesome!
Easel

Drill Painting

Provide a battery operated drill...yes-a real one! Remove the drill bit and duck tape a paint brush into it! This will be your children’s favorite Easel activity yet!

Gross Motor

Robot Hide N Seek

Materials needed: Wind up toys, robots made from Legos, Transformer toys! Any type of robot toys you have. Hide them for the children to find!

Robotic Claw Pick Up

Materials needed: You might have one of these if you use them to reach items on high shelves! They are (at the time of this writing) about $8 at Amazon! They are Toysmith Robotic Claws and here’s what is written about them:

- The Robot Claw can reach objects up to 18-inches away and trap them securely in its clutches.
- The claw makes a fun ratcheting sound when the handle is squeezed.
- Soft rubber tips at the end of each claw help create a secure grip.

They are awesome! Have the children use them to pick up balls outside or items around the classroom to get an idea of what it is like to “be robotic”.

VARIATION: Pick up some large paint stirring sticks at your local hardware store (they will usually donate them). Have the children use only the sticks to pick items up. Brainstorm ways to make these work better (add mittens? Add tape?)

Rube Goldberg Preschool Style

Are you familiar with Rube Goldberg? If not, do a google search or Youtube search for these types of activities! They are the “original” STEM activities in my eyes! A very early version was the board game Mouse Trap (that link is a preschool version)! Marble Runs are also a mini form of this! Provide as many ways for your children to explore science and motion.
For your own versions, use the games I mentioned above, OR, create your own!

Provide marbles, golf balls, ping pong balls, etc., PVC piping and/or paper towel tubes (or toilet paper tubes or gift wrapping paper tubes), painter’s tape

Let the children use these materials to create their own cause and effect activities! We’ve taped cardboard tubes to the walls (use painter’s tape, it won’t take the paint off!). We’ve also use bread ties or pipe cleaners to attach tubes and PVC piping to our outside fence for exploration!

Library

Book Suggestions for the Library

*The Robot Book* by Heather Brown

*SOMETIMES I FORGET YOU’RE A ROBOT* by Sam Brown

*BOY & BOT* by Ame Dyckman

*IF I HAD A ROBOT* by Dan Yaccarino

*ROBOTS* by Franklin Watts (AWESOME non fiction book!)

*ROBOTS, ROBOTS EVERYWHERE!* by Sue Fliess

*THAT’S NOT MY ROBOT* by Fiona Watt (Usborne Books)

Math & Manips

Gear Exploration

Materials needed: Any items that has gears! *Plastic Gears, Spirograph* (be sure to remove the smaller pieces), etc are great toy options. But don’t forget to use gears from items you no longer use. This week I’m suggesting a Take Apart for 2 days (Monday and Tuesday—see the Science Section for details). Use the gears you find from there and place them in bins or bowls for the children to investigate, sort, count, order by size, pattern, etc.
Nuts & Bolts Sorting

Materials needed: yup! Nuts and bolts! Ask parents if they have any they are not using! Most people purchase a box of them but only use 4 or so and have many left over. CAUTION: Check them out if donated to you. Separate the ones that are either rusted or have sharp edges. Throw away the ones with sharp edges but perhaps add the rusted ones to a jar with water and observe what happens to metal over time!

Playdough Mat 1: Create a Bot

Materials needed: Create A Bot mats from this packet and playdough. Have the children create faces, bodies, and even a spaceship for their robot on these mats!

Playdough Mat 2: Number/Letter Mat

Materials needed: Robot Number/Letter Mat in this packet and instructions

Match the Bot Shapes File Folder Game

Materials needed: File folder game and instructions in this packet

Robot Moves

Ask children how they think robots move? Play different tempos of music and encourage them to move like robots to the beat!

Robot (Simon) Says

Encourage children to use robotic voices! Each child takes a turn suggesting a form of movement such as: “Robot Cheryl says move your arms up and down”. Then the other children copy. I don’t play the traditional Simon Says with preschoolers. They are using enough developmental skills with their brains making sense of the directions we give let alone to remember whether or not Simon “says” or not! This is a competitive game best left for the elementary school years.

CD Ideas

Go through your CD collection! Are there any with space themes to them? Perhaps you have the Star Wars soundtrack? Greg and Steve have An Adventure in Space song on their On The Move CD and there are many others! Check out Amazon or your local library! You will use these CDs all year!
Magnetization

YES! Magnets! Get them all out! Place magnetic and non-magnetic items in your table. Some suggestions: metal and plastic paper clips, pompoms, animal sorters (dinosaurs, teddy bears), legos, pencils, paintbrushes, etc. Provide magnet wands, horseshoe magnets and others you may have. Let the children explore which items are magnetic and which are not.

Another idea: put rocks or gravel in your table and add real gears, nuts, bolts and then non-magnetic items with magnet wands.

Roomba!

Use a Roomba in your classroom! It’s a robotic floor cleaner. Now, the version from iRobot is quite pricey, but I found one for $20 on Amazon! It’s called O-Cedar O-Duster Robotic Floor Cleaner

Even less expensive: Ask families if they have one you could use for a day!

Clay Creation

Make the clay recipe in this packet with your kids. Have them create an robot with the dough. Add gears, nuts, bolts, etc. and let dry for a few days.

Paint Clay Creation

Once the clay creation from above is dry, give your children paint to embellish it!

EXTENSION: Have them tell you a story about their robot. Take pictures of each of their robots and add them to the stories for a class book!
K’Nex

We had a preschool version of K’NEX donated to us and the kids loved them! Ask your families if they have any for you to use if you don’t have them in your classroom. Be careful, as always, with donated items. Some K’Nex are meant for older children and have very small parts.

Take Apart: 2 Days
Before this theme begins, send a note home to parents asking for donations of old mechanical items they may have that are not working for the children to take apart!

We’ve used old cassette tape recorders and cassettes, DVD players, VHS tape players, radio, etc. Be sure to let parents know that you will not take computers or televisions—there are materials in them that just should not be messed with in preschool!

Also, ask if a few parents will come in during take apart days to work with the children!

Ask for donations (and be sure to label) screwdrivers and hammers!

Provide a bin for each child to put their item in. They’ll be working on it for a few days and will need somewhere to store it.

Take lots of pictures!

For 2 days, let the children take apart an items. Then move on to the next step:

Creation Station: 3 Days

On these days, give children tape and help them with low-temp hot glue guns to create a robot-looking item with the pieces they have found.

When done, save any loose parts you might be able to use in your classroom. Ask parents to help you dispose of the rest.

Pre Writing Using Robots!

Use the Pre Writing cards in this packet. Print and laminate them. Provide low-odor dry erase markers for the children to add items such as body, head, feet, arms, etc.

You can also use playdough on these to create a robot.
Print and laminate all of these pieces. Use a dry erase marker to print the month on the card below (after you have laminated it). You can then erase and use again any month you’d like!
Calendar Pieces  Robot Theme ABCD  Pattern

1  2  3

4  5  6

© Preschool Plan It  www.preschool-plan-it.com
Calendar Pieces  Robot Theme ABCD Pattern

1. Gear
2. Robot
3. Screw

4. Hexagon
5. Robot
6. Robot

7. Number 7
8. Number 8
9. Number 9

10. Number 10
11. Number 11
12. Number 12

© Preschool Plan It  www.preschool-plan-it.com
Calendar Pieces  Robot Theme ABCD  Pattern

19  20  21

22  23  24

© Preschool Plan It  www.preschool-plan-it.com
Calendar Pieces Robot Theme ABCD Pattern

25 26 27

28 29 30

© Preschool Plan It  www.preschool-plan-it.com
Clay Recipe

Recipies makes enough for 8 children.

4 cups flour                     1 cup salt
1 ¾ cups warm water

1. Include children in the cooking by letting each child put 2 ingredients in. For example, there are 3 ingredients. If you have 8 children, have each child put in ½ cup flour, 1/8 cup salt and 1/8 cup water (you put in the rest of the water).
2. Put all ingredients into a bowl and take turns mixing.
3. Knead the dough for about 10 minutes.
4. Separate dough evenly between children.
5. Have children create their own Robot shape!
6. Add nuts, bolts, gears, etc. while still moist.
7. Let air dry for several days. Then-Paint!

See the Clay Creation Idea in the packet for a classroom book to make to go along with these awesome, child-created robots!

© Preschool Plan It http://www.preschool-plan-it.com
Playdough Mat 1: Create A Bot!

Print and laminate a few of the following pages.
Provide playdough for the children to add to the robot and to the background!
There are 2 versions of each robot: with parts and without to choose from.
There is a “space theme” for robots from space! ;)

Robot Dimensions

Children use their muscles to make “snakes” with their playdough and then use them for arms or legs or other robot parts!
(Skills: muscle development; fine motor control; eye-hand coordination)

Make Robot Parts

Children roll playdough pieces into balls and place on the robots as gears or eyes or even feet!
They can “squish” the parts on as they count them.
(Skills: muscle development; fine motor control; rational counting)

Small Group Work:

Present math activities to the children to complete:
Add eyes to your robot.
Place 2 blue gears on your robot.
Create a spaceship for your robot: Which shape did you make?
Bot Shapes
File Folder Game

Instructions:
Children place the shapes on the corresponding shapes and sizes of the robot pages.

How to make:
• Print out 2 of each robot and laminate.
• Cut out pieces of one of each of the robots for the children to match to the correct robot.
• Glue title onto tab of file folder & instructions on the front.
• Cut out and laminate each robot and shape.
• Glue the robots onto the inside of file folder(s).
• Place shapes in plastic ziplock bag.
• The children match the correct shape size to each
Instructions:
Children place the robot pieces in order to create a robot.

How to make the puzzles:
• Print out all pages.
• Cut out page title and the instructions.
• Glue title onto tab of file folder & instructions on the front.
• Laminate each robot puzzle.
• Cut each page on the solid lines.
• Place each robot in a gallon size ziplock bag.
• The children complete the puzzles by putting the numbers in order.
• If you want to make these self correcting, make a mark on the back of each one. For example, draw a triangle on the back of each strip of the red robot before laminating; a circle on the back of the 2nd robot, etc.
• Store all the puzzles in a file folder or in a manila envelope.
Song Card & Song Poster

How to use:

• Print and laminate the song card below (it is 5” X 3”).
• Place in a can or box with other cards of songs your children love!
• In transitional times (waiting to go outside or wash hands, etc.), pull out your song box or song can (I use a decorated coffee can!).
• Shuffle the cards in your hands saying “Shuffle, shuffle, shuffle” and your children yell “STOP”!
• When they yell stop, whichever card is on top is the one you sing! The kids LOVE this!

Each month you’ll receive one of these cards that correspond with the song poster for the month to add to your Song Card Collection!

On the next page, you’ll find the Song Poster! Print and laminate for use over the years!

© Preschool Plan It  http://www.preschool-plan-it.com
I'm a little robot
Short and strong.
(squat and then flex muscles)
Here are my handles,
Just turn me on.
(put fists on hips for handles and then push belly “button”)
When I get all warmed up-
Watch me go!
(walk fast around circle area)
Sometimes fast...
And sometimes slow!
(march in place fast and then slow)
Thank you so much for being a member of The Preschool Plan It Teacher Club!!

Stay in Touch!

Like Me on Facebook

Follow Me On Pinterest!

Check out the selection of themes on my website! You’ll find them on the Preschool Themes Page!

Have ideas for future Teacher Club Themes? Click Here to send me a note!

Thanks! ~Miss Cheryl

Thank you to Winchester Lambourne for the Robots graphics:

Disclaimer: You may print and use this product for your own personal or classroom use, however, you may NOT post this on your blog, website or other place for free distribution. Please direct others interested in my free downloads to become a member by joining at: Preschool Plan It Teacher Club!

© Preschool Plan It www.preschool-plan-it.com