

WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshop

MAKE, CREATE, EXPLORE

Ages 5-12

Have you ever been in a vehicle that either broke down or wouldn't start? If you happened to be with a mechanic at the time, then maybe they could fix it on the spot . . . But usually, the vehicle will need to be towed to a nearby auto repair shop so it can be fixed!

SOS...Tow Truck Time

Let's experiment with some of the different ways that you may be able to use your tow truck!

You will need:

- Your Tow Truck
 - A toy car
 - Master magnets
 - Velcro strips
 - Bird block netting
 - Command hook
 - String
 - Hobby wire
 - Duct tape or painter's tape
 - Tow Truck Tester Chart (included here)
1. Place your tow truck, car, and the magnets in front of you. Then look at your materials and brainstorm: How could magnets be used to connect your tow truck to the car? If it would be helpful, you may also use the tape, string, or wire.
 2. Once you have an idea in mind, sketch it in the second column of the Tow Truck Tester Chart.
 3. Then give it a try! Assemble your idea and test it out. Be sure to attach the car to the tow truck *and* practice towing. Once you have observed how the magnets work, use the Tow Truck Tester Chart to jot down what worked well, what didn't work well, and what a tow truck driver might need to keep in mind if s/he actually used magnets to tow!
 4. Continue Steps #1-3 three more times, replacing the magnets with the Velcro, bird block netting, and command hook. *How* you use each of these materials to tow is up to you. And if you'd like to try a few different ways of using one of the materials, go ahead!
 5. Once you have tested all of the materials, think about the trials and review the notes you just recorded. Then use the fourth column of the Tow Truck Tester Chart to rate your ideas in order of what worked best: from 1 being the best to 4 being the worst.



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Tow Truck Tester Chart

Materials	Sketch: How could your tow truck use this material to connect to and tow a car?	+ What worked well? - What didn't work well? Notes: What would the tow truck driver have to keep in mind?	Ranking: 1 = Best 4 = Worst
Magnets		+ - Notes:	
Velcro		+ - Notes:	
Bird Block Netting		+ - Notes:	
Command Hook		+ - Notes:	

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