

WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshops

January 2026: Tow Truck

Ages 5-12

CONNECT.

There are lots of inventions that help us attach two things together. For instance, glue bonds things by creating a sticky layer that hardens to hold them tight. Magnets snap together with their invisible force. What other materials or tools have you used to help two things connect?

INVESTIGATE.

In order for tow trucks to do their job, they must attach to the vehicle that needs help! Let's experiment with some of the different ways your Tow Truck might be able to connect to—and tow—another vehicle!

You'll need:

- Your Tow Truck
- A small toy car or a block, container, or box to simulate a small car
- Master magnets
- Velcro™ strips
- Bird block netting
- Command™ hooks
- String or hobby wire
- Duct tape or painter's tape
- Scissors

Place your Tow Truck, car, and the rest of the materials in front of you.

Get hands-on and start brainstorming: How could you use the magnets to connect your Tow Truck to the car? How about the Velcro, bird block netting, or Command™ hooks? Sketch your ideas in the first column in the Tow Truck Tester Chart.

INNOVATE.

1. Now, grab the magnets and assemble your first idea. Use tape instead of glue for now, so you can take it apart easily.
2. Then test out your connection and see how well your Tow Truck can tow the car! Note what works well and what doesn't work well in your Tow Truck Tester Chart.
3. Take apart your design and repeat Steps 1 and 2 three more times, using the Velcro, bird block netting, and Command hook to build the ideas that you sketched.
4. Once you've tested all of the materials, think about each of 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—1 being the best to 4 being the worst.

When towing is needed, what will be the best way for your Tow Truck to come to the rescue and tow a car?

Tow Truck Tester Chart

Materials	Sketch: How could your Tow Truck use this material to connect to a car?	+ What worked well? - What didn't work well?	Ranking: 1 = Best 4 = Worst
Magnets		+ -	
Velcro		+ -	
Bird Block Netting		+ -	
Command Hook		+ -	

Share a photo of one of your Tow Truck trials, using #kidsworkshopexplore.



Similar to how tow truck drivers help move a broken down car, **Restoration Technicians** help individuals move debris, clean up, and rebuild after an emergency like a fire or flood.

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