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Introduction

Posting a letter – what a mystery that can be to a child! Young children wonder, ‘How do the letters get out of the postbox?’ ‘Where does the mail come from?’ ‘How does the postie know which house it goes to?’ The *Post Office* theme unit answers these and other questions posed by the early learner.

The adventure begins when children recreate the world of the postie. Children delight in creating a post office counter, a large letterbox and an Australia Post truck. While some children work the register and scales at the post office counter, others deliver letters and packages in the truck. Posties wear butcher’s paper caps and carry letter pouches designed from cereal boxes.

Boys and girls learn about the community as they make a large-scale scene complete with a post office and houses. Number and letter recognition is emphasised as children sort envelopes, play an alphabet beanbag toss game or stamp letters and numbers on packages.

Children’s participation in this creative learning environment enriches their skills and their imaginations.

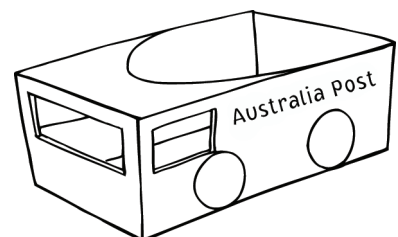
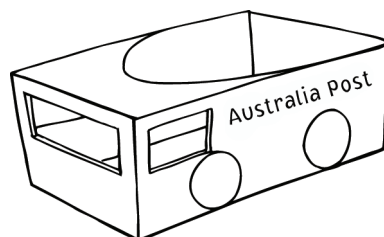
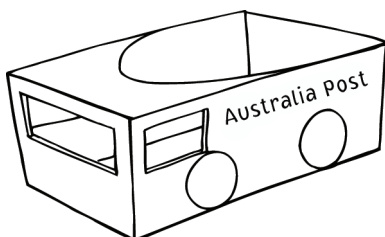
Personal Observations:

The post office doors swung open to reveal children enthralled to be working in the Post Office. Some busily weighed packages and stamped envelopes. Others carefully sorted the mail. Both boys and girls readied the truck for deliveries. The first stop was to deliver the daily mail. The last stop was at the corner postbox where the postie quickly gathered the letters. The letters and packages were swiftly returned to the post office to be processed.

Children concentrated as they transformed juice containers into miniature postal workers to be used in a dramatic play scenario.

The children were challenged by an assortment of activities which focused on letter and number recognition.

The *Post Office* theme unit created spontaneous teamwork. It was thrilling to watch children learn about these important members of their community.



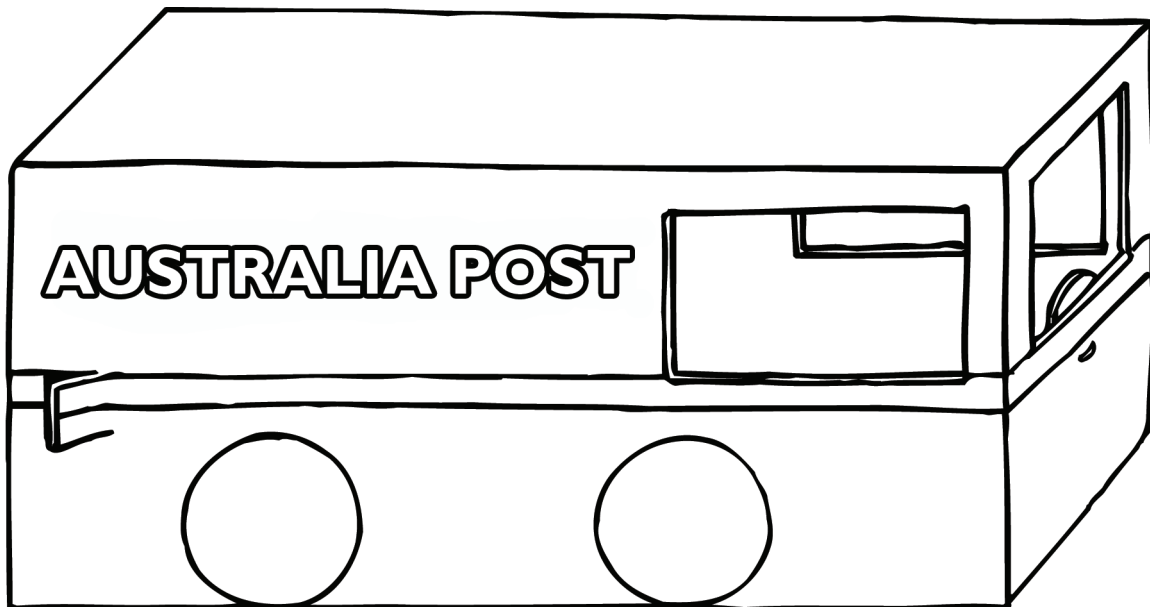
Australia Post Truck

Materials:

Post Stencil (p. 6), dryer box (or similar-sized box), flat sections of cardboard, four cotton reels, wool, tempera paint (red, black and white), paint rollers, shallow tins (for paint), glue, scissors, sharp instrument for cutting (for adult use only)

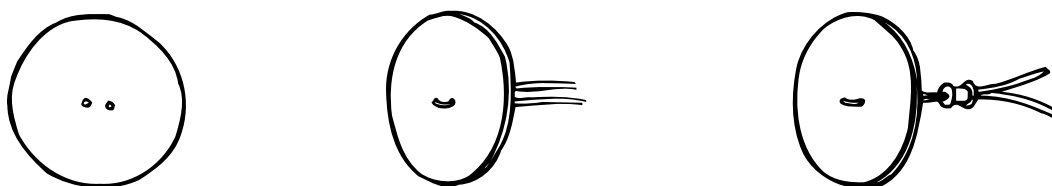
Directions:

1. Use the post stencil to cut out letters. Make an Australia Post sign for each side of the truck.
2. Remove one end of the box.
3. Cut a front windscreen and two side windows in the box.
4. To make a petrol tank, cut three sides of a square in the rear of the box and fold back the flap.
5. Cut four tyres and a steering wheel from the flat section of cardboard.



Australia Post Truck

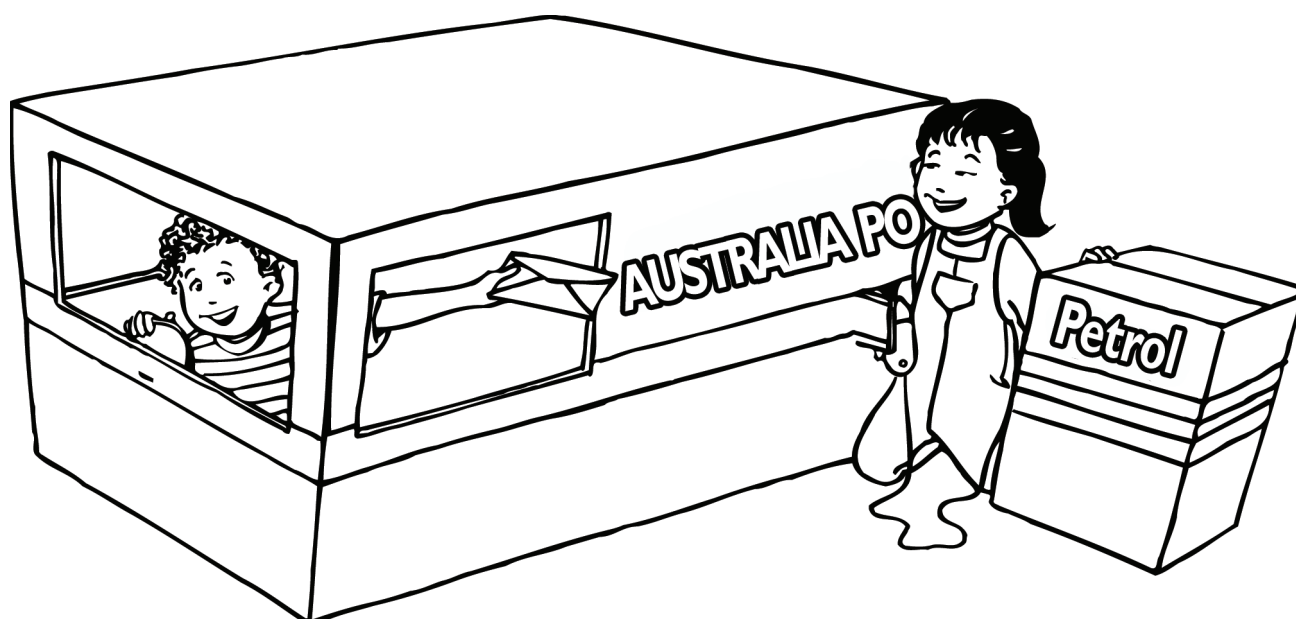
6. Punch two holes in the centre of the steering wheel and punch two holes beneath the windscreen.
7. Attach the steering wheel by aligning the holes on the steering wheel with the holes beneath the windscreen and tying together with wool.
8. Punch two holes in the centre of each wheel and punch two holes for each tyre on the sides of the box.
9. Thread wool through the two holes in each tyre, bring the two ends of wool through the opening in a cotton reel, thread the wool through the two holes in the box and tie.



10. Have children paint the truck and tyres.
11. Once the paint has dried, children can glue the Australia Post sign to the truck.

Option:

- Provide junk mail and packages for children to use with the post truck.



Post Stencil

AUSTRALIA
POST