



## Car Repair Shop



### Introduction to the Exhibit:

Put your love of cars to work here in our Car Repair Shop! Don't worry about losing your tools; the wrenches and screw drivers needed to get the job done are attached to the engine block. While you're working on rotating the tires and filling them with air or checking the oil in the engine, have a friend play attendant and pump the gas! As the numbers climb (how many gallons did you buy today?), make sure you have enough money to cover the cost of fuel and your necessary repairs. Need more cash to pay

for your bill? Drop by the ATM next door so you can pay the mechanic and the attendant for jobs well done.

### The Power of Play:

By role playing and creating real life situations, children learn about the world around them and discover key skills important for their success with peers. During play, children strengthen their discoveries about suitable behavior in various situations, as well as enhance their ability to think creatively. In addition to promoting the growth of imagination, improving memory and increasing vocabulary skills, the opportunity to engage in role play allows children the chance to learn valuable social and perspective-taking skills that they will continue to develop into their adult lives. This exhibit is an ideal place for undirected play to occur, which encourages children to share ("Can we take turns pumping the gas?"), listen ("Did you say you wanted to use the drill this time?") and negotiate ("You can sit in the driver's seat since I got to do it the last time we were here. I'll fill out the work order.") while learning to work in pairs and/or groups. Role play (such as pretending to be a mechanic or someone who needs help with his car) enables children to make choices and explore while developing language and leadership skills.

**ASK:** Ask your child to help you hook up a spark plug. If the car is going to be in the shop for a while, what other forms of transportation could you use until it's fixed? Will your child help you fill out a work order? What seems to be the problem with the car? Is it the engine? The brakes? Does your child know a car can run on alternative power supplied by corn or the sun?

**LISTEN:** Listen to your child as he works with other mechanics and drivers. What kind of sound does the car make when the gas pedal is pressed? Do you hear children playing in the fire truck? Are the fire fighters responding to a call? If you're driving the car out of the repair shop, pull over to make way for the emergency vehicle!

**LOOK:** Watch to see if your child buckles up as soon as she sits in the car. This is a good opportunity to talk about car safety. Look at the alternative energy sources hanging from the display to the right of the car. Does your child seem more interested in working on the engine and tires, or does he prefer driving the vehicle and filling it up with gas? Make sure you look up – what do you see? It's the underside of a car!

**Key Vocabulary WORDS to USE in This Exhibit**

<b>drill</b>	<b>engine</b>	<b>gas</b>	<b>bill</b>
<b>wheel</b>	<b>hood</b>	<b>oil</b>	<b>ignition</b>
<b>key</b>	<b>brakes</b>	<b>pedal</b>	<b>air</b>
<b>pump</b>	<b>tires</b>	<b>fix</b>	<b>repair</b>
<b>seatbelt</b>	<b>drive</b>	<b>tools</b>	
<b>windshield</b>	<b>wrench</b>	<b>bolt</b>	<b>power</b>

**After Your Visit: The Learning Continues!**

While driving to and from the store, ask your child to identify different types of cars, trucks and other vehicles on the road. Encourage her to use details such as color, size, purpose and even make and model to describe them as she gets older! To continue purposeful play similar to this exhibit at home, find a large cardboard box, and with your child's help, turn it into a car, complete with an engine your child can "repair" with a set of plastic tools.

*\*We carefully choose the props and toys included in our exhibits. All of these items are in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) lead testing standards.*