



6 Simple Machines to Observe in Everyday Life



Simple machines are all around us! Support children as identify simple machines in the classroom or broader school environment. Once children have knowledge of what a simple machines is, they will begin to see them everywhere! Invite children to identify the type of simple machine. Use the list below to introduce simple machines in a relevant and contextual way.

Simple Machines

Lever - scissors, tweezers, tongs

Wedge - doorstop, axe, knife

Screw - jar lid, screw, lightbulb

Inclined Plane - slide, ramps, wheelchair accessibility ramp

Pulley - elevator, blinds, rock climbing belay system

Wheel and Axle - car, bicycle, bus, wheelbarrow, wagon

Vocabulary:

simple machines, system, low-tech, high-tech, observe

Open-Ended Questions

- What is a simple machine?
- What can this simple machine help us do?
- Where do you see (one of the simple machines above) in the school?
- How do you use (one of the simple machines above) at home?