

Big Trucks

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

- **SHARE BOOKS** Share books in which letters of the alphabet are presented in the text, such as *I Stink*. Other titles include: *Old Black Fly*, *Alphabet Under Construction*, and *Matthew A.B.C.*
- **SHARE WORDS** Talk about different kinds of large trucks, introducing some new words by talking about the purpose of the truck. Examples include: backhoe, excavator, bulldozer, cherry picker, forklift, and steamroller.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Share books with rhyming text. Read the book through once; then read it again, pausing to let your child supply the rhyming words.
- **SHARE SONGS** Sing songs your child likes over and over again. Repetition helps your child learn words, and it builds memory skills.
- **SHARE STORIES** Share stories of vehicles your family owned when you were young. Make up stories about unusual trucks you see, like garbage trucks or trucks pulling heavy loads. Add creative details about where the truck has been, where it might be going, and what it might be hauling.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Make a game of collecting the trash on trash day, and have your child help. What items can be recycled? Talk about the importance of recycling.
- **SHARE WRITING** Use license plates to trace letters or make crayon rubbings of the plates.

Here are the words to the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with your child throughout the week, you will help him or her make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

Moving Hands

(sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

Put your hands on your head, (*Suit actions to words*)
Put your hands on your knees,
Put your hands behind you now,
If you please.

Put your hands on your tummy,
Put your hands on your toes,
Put your hands upon your cheeks,
Put them on your nose.

Put your hands in the air,
Put your hands on your hair,
Clap your hands, one, two, three,
Then fold them on your knees.

Buckle Up

(sung to the tune of “The Ants Go Marching”)

We like to travel in our car, (*Pretend to steer car*)
Hurrah, hurrah! (*Clap twice*)
A car can take us near and far, (*Pretend to steer car*)
Hurrah! Hurrah! (*Clap twice*)
We buckle up before we go, (*Pretend to buckle seat belt*)
Whether we’re going fast or slow, (*Pretend to steer car*)
So we’ll all be safe
While riding in our car!
(Repeat)

Garbage Truck

(sung to the tune of “Down by the Station”)

Early in the morning,
when it’s garbage day,
Here comes the garbage truck (*Pretend to steer truck*)
to the trash buffet.

The trash collector feeds him (*Pretend to dump garbage can*)
from the garbage cans.

Good thing the garbage truck
is not a picky van!

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Little Hunk of Tin

(sung to the tune of "I'm a Little Acorn Brown")

I'm a little hunk of tin.

(Cup hand as if holding something)

Nobody knows what shape I'm in.

(Hold hands to sides, palms up, and shrug)

Got four wheels and a tank of gas.

(Hold up four fingers)

I can go, but not too fast. *(Shake head "no")*

Honk, honk, *(Pull ear)*

Rattle, rattle, rattle, *(Shake head)*

Crash! *(Push chin)*

Beep, beep! *(Push nose)*

Honk, honk, *(Pull ear)*

Rattle, rattle, rattle, *(Shake head)*

Crash! *(Push chin)*

Beep, beep! *(Push nose)*

I'm a little red dump truck.

I carry loads of dirt and muck.

(Hold hands as if carrying a load)

Rambling down a dusty road,

I rock and roll with my heavy load.

(Rock body side to side)

Honk, honk, *(Pull ear)*

Rattle, rattle, rattle, *(Shake head)*

Crash! *(Push chin)*

Beep, beep! *(Push nose)*

Honk, honk, *(Pull ear)*

Rattle, rattle, rattle, *(Shake head)*

Crash! *(Push chin)*

Beep, beep! *(Push nose)*

Library Storytime Song

(sung to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad")

I came to my storytime

(Sway side to side throughout and point to self)

At the library today,

I came to my storytime *(Point to self)*

To sing, and laugh, and play.

I listened to some picture books,

Sang songs, said some rhymes,

I hope I can come back again,

Because I had a very good time!

I want to come back, *(Clap!)*

I want to come back, *(Clap!)*

I want to come back to storytime!

I want to come back, *(Clap!)*

I want to come back, *(Clap!)*

To my storytime!

(Spoken) See you soon! *(Wave goodbye)*

Creative Dramatics

Garbage!

(Suit actions to words)

Pick up garbage, and throw it in the bin!

Push it down, and stomp it in!

Carry the cans to the street,

For the garbage trucks to eat.

When the truck comes roaring by,

Workers lift the cans up high,

Garbage falls into the back,

Crush it, mash it, smash it flat!

Set the cans down with a thump,

Now drive that garbage to the dump!

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Rhymes

Cars and Trucks

(Pretend to drive a car with each line; on "squeak," open and close hands with fingers spread apart)

Mommy drives a fancy car.

Daddy drives a squeaky truck.

Brother likes the fancy car.

But I like Daddy's squeaky truck!

Squeak! Squeak!

Five Little Garbage Trucks

Five little garbage trucks, painted green, *(Hold up five fingers)*

Picking up trash to keep the town clean, *(Pretend to pick up trash)*

They work and they work until they fill up,

Now one of the garbage trucks drives to the dump!

(Hold up one finger; pretend to drive truck)

Additional Verses

Four little garbage trucks ...

Three little garbage trucks ...

Two little garbage trucks ...

One little garbage truck, painted green,

Picking up trash to keep the town clean,

He works and he works until he fills up,

Now the last garbage truck drives to the dump!

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Trash Collector

Trash collector comes in his truck *(Pretend to drive a truck)*

Picking up garbage, junk, and muck. *(Pretend to pick things up)*

He'll take it to the dump, drop it in a lump *(Pretend to drive a truck)*

And drive away bumpity-bump! *(Bend knees to illustrate a bump)*

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