

Buses and Trains

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** Informational books provide more complex vocabulary than storybooks, so share informational books as often as possible. There are many simple books about transportation. If the text is too difficult for your child, just talk about the pictures.
- **SHARE WORDS** The names of the different cars on trains provide an opportunity to share train vocabulary. Find pictures of these cars and talk about their differences: locomotive, freight car, boxcar, flatcar, hopper car, tank car, refrigerated car, and caboose.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Play rhyming games with your child: “I spy something in this room that rhymes with the word _____. Can you tell me what it is?” Also: “What words rhyme with *train*? What rhymes with *bus*?”
- **SHARE SONGS** When singing the children’s favorite “The Wheels on the Bus,” change the sequence of verses each time, or ask your child, “What verse do you want to sing next?” so that he gets to make decisions and develops narrative skills (ability to describe things and events and tell stories). This skill helps children understand what they are reading when they start to read.
- **SHARE STORIES** Talk to your child about taking a trip on a train or bus, and ask questions. Where will you go? How long will you travel? What will you see on the way? What will you eat? How long will you stay? (Answering questions helps develop narrative skills.)
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Play with toy trains and have your child construct buildings with blocks or use blocks to make a train or train tracks.
- **SHARE WRITING** Draw a picture of a bus. Provide a circular stencil (piece of round cardboard, jar lid, or large button) for your child to trace around so she can add the wheels. Or, provide finger paint and help your child add wheels to the bus.

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

It’s Time for Storytime

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

It’s time for storytime, (*Clap hands to beat*)
It’s time for storytime,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
It’s time for storytime.

We listen to some stories, (*Two fingers point to ears*)
We listen to some stories,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
We listen to some stories.

We sing some songs and rhymes, (*Two fingers point to mouth*)
We sing some songs and rhymes,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
We sing some songs and rhymes.

And now we’ll have some fun, (*Pat knees or legs*)
And now we’ll have some fun,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
And now we’ll have some fun!

Down by the Station

Down by the station, (*Clap hands or tap knees to beat*)
Early in the morning,
See the little pufferbellies
All in a row.
Hear the stationmaster
Shouting, “All aboard now!” (*Cup hands around mouth*)
Chug chug, (*Child bends elbows and rotates arms in a circle*)
Toot! Toot!
Off we go!
(*Repeat*)

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

The Wheels of the Train

(sung to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus")

The wheels of the train go round and round,
(Bend elbows and move arms in circle)

Round and round,

Round and round.

The wheels of the train go round and round,
Clacking down the track!

The bell on the train goes ding, ding, ding, (Pretend to ring bell)

Ding, ding, ding,

Ding, ding, ding.

The bell on the train goes ding, ding, ding,
Ringing down the track!

The whistle on the train goes toot, toot, toot,
(Cup hands around mouth)

Toot, toot, toot,

Toot, toot, toot.

The whistle on the train goes toot, toot, toot,
Blowing down the track!

The people on the train go up and down,
(Child bumps up and down on lap)

All around,

Through the town.

The people on the train go up and down,
Riding down the track!

Big Yellow Bus

(sung to the tune of "Bumping Up and Down in My Little Red Wagon")

Riding back and forth in the big yellow bus,
(Sway from side to side to the beat)

Riding back and forth in the big yellow bus,
Riding back and forth in the big yellow bus,
Come along with me!

Singing songs in the big yellow bus,
(Continue swaying and point to mouth)

Singing songs in the big yellow bus,

Singing songs in the big yellow bus,

Come along with me!

Bumping up and down in the big yellow bus,
(Child bumps up and down on adult lap or moves up and down)

Bumping up and down in the big yellow bus,

Bumping up and down in the big yellow bus,

Come along with me!

The Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go round and round,
(Roll hands over each other)

Round and round, round and round.

The wheels on the bus go round and round,
All through the town.

Additional Verses

The doors on the bus go open and shut ...
(Open and close arms)

The wipers on the bus go swish-swish-swish ...
(Sweep arms in windshield wiper motion)

The people on the bus go up and down ...
(Lift child up and down)

Rhymes

Choo Choo Train

This is a choo choo train

(Child bends elbows and moves arms in a circle)

Puffing down the track,

First it goes forward, (Child moves forward)

Then it goes back. (Child moves back)

Now the bell is ringing (ding, ding)

(Child pretends to pull bell rope and says "ding, ding")

Then the whistle blows (toot, toot)

(Child holds fist near mouth and says "toot, toot")

What a lot of noise it makes

Everywhere it goes.

(Child bends elbows and moves arms in a circle)

Here Is the Engine

Here is the engine on the track (Point to thumb)

Here is the coal car, just in back (Point to pointer finger)

Here is the boxcar, to carry freight (Point to middle finger)

Here is the mail car, don't be late! (Point to ring finger)

Way back here at the end of the train (Point to little finger)

Rides the caboose through the sun and the rain.

Wave Goodbye

Wave high. Wave low. (Suit motions to words)

I think it's time, we gotta go.

Wave your elbows. Wave your toes.

Wave your tongue and wave your nose.

Wave your knees. Wave your lips.

Blow a kiss, with fingertips.

Wave your ears. Wave your hair.

Wave your belly and derriere.

Wave your chin. Wave your eye.

Wave your hand and say "goodbye."

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