

Buses and Trains

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Many twos and threes are obsessed with trains and love watching older children riding school buses. Thus, transportation themes are a good choice for these ages. This storytime covers buses and trains, and another storytime will highlight cars and trucks, but fascination with big vehicles extends to construction vehicles and farm machines.

Books

For books to share in this storytime, pick three from the list below, or choose other books in your collection that reflect the theme and are developmentally appropriate for twos and threes. Always share your longest book first. For the second book, choose a participatory book that engages the children, and ask the caregivers to join in. For the third and last story, share a book told through the use of a flannel board or magnetic board, or use a prop or other visual. The examples provided in the storytime program fit these guidelines.

Book Suggestions:

- *The Babies on the Bus*, by Karen Katz (Henry Holt, 2011)
- *The Wheels on the Bus*, by David Ellwand (Silver Dolphin, 2010)
- *Chugga-Chugga Choo-Choo*, by Kevin Lewis (Hyperion, 1999)
- *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* by Mo Willems (Hyperion, 2003)
- *Freight Train*, by Donald Crews (Greenwillow, 1978)
- *I Love Trains!* by Philemon Sturges (HarperCollins, 2001)
- *Maisy Drives the Bus*, by Lucy Cousins (Candlewick, 2000)
- *School Bus*, by Donald Crews (Greenwillow, 1984)
- *Terrific Trains*, by Tony Mitton (Kingfisher, 2000)
- *Trains*, by Byron Barton (Harper, 1998)
- *Trains Go*, by Steve Light (Chronicle, 2012)

Songs

This storytime includes five songs. The same opening song should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. Always provide some type of movement or motions to accompany each song, but keep the movements simple. If you use a song that normally has many verses, consider limiting it to two or three verses. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, but try to sing as many songs as you can with a live voice so that young children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. Recorded music is usually sung too fast for this purpose. The Very Ready Reading Program includes CDs with all the songs in the storytimes, recorded at an appropriate tempo for this age group. Track numbers for each recording are provided in the song list below and on the storytime program card.

Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: "It's Time for Storytime" (sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 2.03 🎵 2.04
- "Down by the Station" 🎧 1.20
- "The Wheels of the Train" (sung to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus") 🎧 2.29
- "Big Yellow Bus" (sung to the tune of "Bumping Up and Down in My Little Red Wagon") 🎧 1.06
- "The Wheels on the Bus" 🎧 2.30

Rhymes

This storytime includes three rhymes. The same closing rhyme should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. The rhymes used in these storytimes have motions that are appropriate for twos and threes, who still have some limited fine motor skills. Younger children may need caregivers' help with the motions in these rhymes.

Rhymes for This Storytime:

- "Choo Choo Train"
- "Here Is the Engine"
- Closing Rhyme: "Wave Goodbye"

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Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing rhyme. Below are three activities to choose from. The activity you choose might depend on the size or predominant age of your audience, the amount of time you have to prepare, your space or environment, and the materials needed. The activities are designed with safety and the attention spans and fine motor abilities of twos and threes in mind. Always remember and remind caregivers: **Any activity that involves materials such as paint, sand, string, or small pieces requires close adult supervision.** Although each activity has a learning aspect, the emphasis should be on having fun!

Activity Suggestions:

Wheels on the Bus. Give each child two paper plates as the “wheels” for their buses. Let children color the plates and roll them with adult help as their wheels go “round and round,” or provide items and toys that have wheels and let children explore.

Painted Wheels. Provide a sponge cut into a circle and held with a clothespin, and a small dish of tempera paint for each child. Tape paper to a table so that it does not move. Have the children use the sponges to make painted wheels on the paper.

Train Cars. Use the train car patterns at www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles for children to trace around on construction paper to make several cars for their trains. Provide crayons or markers for children to color their trains.



Early Literacy Tips

Throughout each storytime program, you’ll find yellow boxes that feature early literacy tips. As you present your program, share these tips with parents and caregivers to help promote the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles. The tips are designed to easily be infused into the storytime without interrupting the natural flow of the program for children. The Caregiver Tip Sheets you will hand out at the end of each program reiterate the literacy tips you shared during the storytime.