

# Small Cars, 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** After sharing a book with your child, ask some simple questions, such as “What color is this car?” or “What is the name of this truck?” Reading interactively with your child helps develop strong comprehension and language skills.
- **SHARE WORDS** Naming construction vehicles and different kinds of trucks can provide many new words for your child. Find pictures in a book or on Google Images. Search for dump trucks, front-end loaders, backhoes, garbage trucks, car transporters, tow trucks, giant cranes, pumper fire trucks, and ladder fire trucks.
- **SHARE RHYMES** When reading books in rhyme, point out recurring words, and have your child join in when those words appear. Play word games with rhyming word pairs. Which two words rhyme? Car, far, horn? Truck, hand, duck?
- **SHARE SONGS** Take a familiar song, such as “The Wheels on the Bus,” and make up a new song—“The Wheels on the Car,” where the wheels go round and round, the horn goes beep, beep, beep; the wipers go swish, swish, swish; and so on.
- **SHARE STORIES** Go on a pretend car ride with your child. Where will you go? (Look at a map together.) What will you take with you? Who will go on the trip? How long will you be gone?
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Provide large boxes to use as pretend cars, trucks, or jeeps. Invite your child to pretend to drive by using a paper plate as a steering wheel.
- **SHARE WRITING** Make license plate rubbings with your child. Provide paper and crayons so that your child can make a rubbing from an old license plate. Discuss the letters and numbers with your child.

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!

#### I'm a Little Dump Truck

(sung to the tune of “Up on the Housetop”)

I'm a little dump truck, watch me go

(*Pretend to steer dump truck*)

Through mud and gravel and even snow.

Hauling rocks and dirt with all my might

That diggers dig from building sites.

(*Pretend to dig with both hands*)

Dig, dig, dig, load, load, load,

(*Pretend to dig with both hands, then throw hands over shoulders to load*)

Dig, dig, dig, load, load, load,

(*Pretend to dig with both hands; then throw hands over shoulders to load*)

I'm a little dump truck, watch me go

(*Pretend to steer dump truck*)

Through mud and gravel and even snow.

(*Repeat*)

# Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

## 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)*

## Buckle Up

(sung to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching/When Johnny Comes Marching Home")

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)*

## Rhymes

### Front-End Loader

I'm a mighty digger truck, *(Move hands as if digging dirt)*

Diggin' through the dirt and muck,

Workin' hard to clear a space,

Makin' room for a great new place.

*(Open hands wide, palms up, as if to show a big place)*

### Cars and Trucks

*(Pretend to drive a car for each line. On "squeak," open and close hands)*

Mommy drives a fancy car.

Daddy drives a squeaky truck.

Brother likes the fancy car.

But I like daddy's squeaky truck!

Squeak! Squeak!

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### I'm a Windshield Wiper

I'm a windshield wiper, *(Bend arms with fingers pointing up)*

This is how I go, *(Move arms left and right, pivoting at elbow)*

Back and forth, back and forth, *(Continue movement)*

In the rain and snow. *(Continue movement)*

*(You can do more than once and increase the speed of the wipers as the rain and snow get more intense)*

### 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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