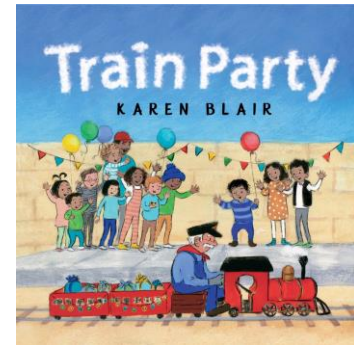


# LEARNING TIME

## Train Party by Karen Blair

All the joys of celebrating a birthday in the train park, brought to life in bold colours and an engaging read aloud rhythm and rhyme that will have you and your family reaching for this one time and time again. Name all the delights birthday's bring - friends, family, gifts and cake! Clickety Clack, the train is on the track!



### Key Message for Parents | The best learning happens in nurturing relationships

The foundation of a wide range of skills for lifelong success comes from nurturing relationships with parents and caregivers:

- Allow for time to play together
- Enjoy back and forth interactions between adult and child through talking, smiling, singing and engaging together
- Follow the lead of the child in exploring their interests
- Show a genuine interest in what makes them curious, happy and engaged.

### Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Educators can support children's learning when they:

- Provide a warm welcome, acknowledging each child by their name
- Engage with each child at their level, and in a way that makes them feel comfortable, being aware that some children will be more reserved, and others more forthright
- Open dialogue with open ended questions, and pay attention to the answers given, build on their ideas while valuing their contributions.

## Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

## Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

### Good Morning

*Good morning to you*

*Good morning to you*

*Good morning everybody*

*and welcome to you!*



## Song

**A popular song with a few variations on the second verse. Try making up a verse that suits your environment.**

*Down at the station,*

*Early in the morning*

*See the little puffer trains*

*All in a row*

*See the station master turn his little handle*

*Choo choo! Puff puff!*

*Off we go!*

<https://youtu.be/kFMGS3Oi4SM>

## Before Reading

Invite the participants to find a comfortable place to sit where they can see the book clearly. Explain the format of your session, if you want questions and comments at the end or if you will talk through the book. Explain there is a movement song after the book.

Introduce the author and illustrator and invite the participants to look at the cover, back of the book and have some fun showing the right way to read a book. Try holding it upside down, then back to front, ask is the children 'Is this how I read the book?' Look at the beautifully illustrated end papers, they tell the story of the train park.

These activities all help to build the essential pre-literacy skills - print readiness, understanding how a book works, and how we use a book.

## During Reading

Look for engagement with the participants. Allow time to stop and reflect on pages of interest. Model how to read with enthusiasm and by making the noises of the text. Look for opportunities to connect with the audience. Get them involved in repeating the sound 'clickety - clack'. And 'toot toot'. Offer them opportunities to read the illustrations, for example "Can you see anything that is the colour red, green, blue?".



## After Reading

Reflect on the story together. If the children have been to a train park, like in the book, they may want to share their experiences with the group so encourage this participation. Expressing their own experiences builds language and narrative skills, as well as confidence and a sense of wellbeing through successful social connection.

Talk about the rhyming words in the text. Draw attention to repeated phrase "clickety - clack" and ask the audience to point out some rhyming words, unpack, stack, track, black , back, shack, quack, snack, pack etc.

## Song

### This Train

This train is goin' to the city, this train  
This train is goin' to the city, this train  
This train is goin' to the city, where the lights are all so pretty  
This train is goin' to the city, this train

This train is goin' to the farm, this train  
This train is goin' to the farm, this train  
This train is goin' to the farm, to see the animals in the barn  
This train is goin' to the farm, this train

This train is goin' to Grandma's, this train  
This train is goin' to Grandma's, this train  
This train is goin' to Grandma's, bring your teddy bear and your red pajamas  
This train is goin' to Grandma's, this train

This train is goin' to the moon, this train  
This train is goin' to the moon, this train  
This train is goin' to the moon, we'll be back at the end of this tune  
This train is goin' to the moon, this train, this train

<https://youtu.be/Zgi90QoZtpc>

## Extension Ideas

### Read

- Use non-fiction books to discover more facts about trains and build the language of train types and mechanics
- Learn more about colours, as some are referred to in this text
- Rhyming books and poetry
- Science books about steam and extend learning to steam trains in particular.

### Sing

- Sing songs about transport or birthday songs with made up lyrics. Try YouTube to add different songs to your repertoire. Check out Justine Clarke's Birthday song <https://youtu.be/GRVxAs5mR50>
- The Happy Birthday song in different languages. Or learn some new versions in your own language.

### Talk

- Reflect on past birthdays and things you have done to celebrate them. If you have photos you can build conversations around the pictures, describe things you can see and allow the child/ren to do the same. Talk about memories, and celebrations generally.
- Create a birthday plan together, what are fun things to do? Talk about the time, date, season, possible weather on that date. List other parties they recall, what activities are popular at birthdays? Name and explain common party games like pass the parcel and musical chairs. Discuss taking turns and sharing, being fair and including everyone. Social emotional concepts are great to introduce in the context of parties.

### Play

- Create a mock birthday party. Make an invite and bring all your favourite teddies to the party. Roll play the party together with your child.
- Make your own train park utilizing toy trains or make them out of recycled materials, such as boxes. Making allows the opportunity for rich language development through discussing concepts such as size, colours and imaginative ideas.
- Design your own train tickets. A great activity for literacy and numeracy concepts. How much is the train ride? How many stops are there? Are there sections with different costs? What is the timetable? What days do the trains run?
- Take a train ride and look at the map on the train, plan a trip together. Think about the conversational turns you can include in this activity eg: How long will it take? Where do you arrive? Where do you depart? What landmarks can you see? How many people are on the platform? How many carriages are there? How many stops until your destination?



## STEM Focus - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

### Ramps - Cause and Effect

1. Set up a ramp with some sections of straight track at the end, or use cardboard and cars
2. Push the train down the ramp and observe what happens. Keep adding sections of track and try again. Repeat this until the train stays on the track.
3. At the end of the track, place an object, like a toy tree.

Try these ideas to test or investigations to explore here:

- What happens when you push the train?
- How far does the train go?
- Will the train hit the tree?
- What happens when we use two trains?
- What if we change the object at the end of the track or change the train (and add a plane)?

## Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Catch That Plane!** By *Sally Sutton and Sylvie Currin Korankova*
- **Let's Go! On a Train** by *Rosalyn Albert and Natalia Moore*
- **Your Birthday Was the BEST!** By *Maggie Hutchings and Felicita Sala*
- **Grandma Z** by *Daniel Gray-Barnett*

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

## Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush) or your preferred choice.

### Goodbye

*This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action) Say goodbye, say goodbye*

*This is the way we say goodbye*

*To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!*