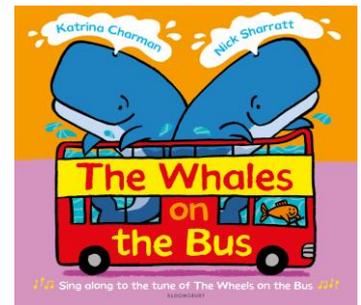


LEARNING TIME

The Whales on the Bus

By Katrina Charman and Nick Sharratt

This story puts a super fun twist on the well-known song the Wheels on the Bus. Follow all the animals as they use all sorts of transport to get around. Jump aboard traditional modes of transport like buses, trains, jeeps and trucks. But have you used a glider, skis or a hot air balloon to get around? Coupled with vibrant, bold and colourful illustrations the easy to follow rhyming text makes this a perfect read aloud book. With a gentle and calm ending The Whales on the Bus is also a great bedtime story for any busy toddler.



Key Message for Parents | Children learn language by listening to it and using it.

The brain is naturally wired to learn language. Toddlers need to hear people talking about what they are seeing and experiencing for their brains to fully develop language skills.

Actively talking, reading and singing to toddlers has a significant effect on later language skills.

Immerse your child in language everyday by

- Reading books- rhyming stories are fantastic for language development as it helps makes words memorable
- Talk about what you are doing- eg: if you are getting ready to go to the park explain all the things you need to take like water bottle, snacks, sunscreen etc
- Sing songs- your toddler loves to hear your voice and singing helps slow language down making it easy for children to understand.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

Educators can support children to become effective communicators by:

- Reading and sharing a range of books with children. Books containing rhyming text help children understand how language works by exploring the sounds words make which allows children to develop skills in prediction.
- Drawing attention to symbols and patterns in their environment. Words are all around us, point out words on street signs, at the shops, around the home and in your learning centre.
- Allowing children to tell their own stories by providing props and pictures. Set up story tables with a book and a few items related to the book. Let the children tell the story in their own words.

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

Wheels on the Bus

The Wheels on the bus go round and round,
round and round, round and round

The wheels on the bus go round and round all day long

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish.

swish, swish, swish, swish, swish, swish

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish all day long

The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep

Beep, beep, beep, beep beep, beep

The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep all day long

The children on the bus go up and down

Up and down, up and down

The children on the bus go up and down all day long



The Wheels on the bus go round and round,
round and round, round and round
The wheels on the bus go round and round all day long

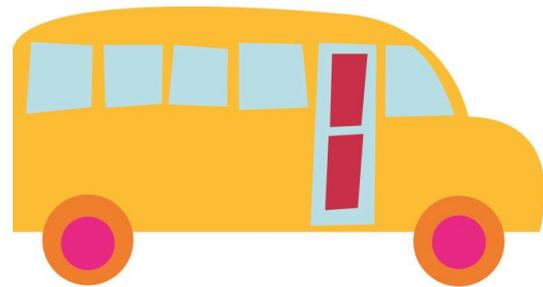
Before Reading

Decide on the space where you will read the story. Pick somewhere with enough space for the children to stand up and move around if you plan to involve actions as part of the storytelling.

Prepare any props or music you will use during the session. Keep your props in arms reach to allow your session to flow.

Read the title and show the cover to the group. Point out the author and illustrators' names and how they have been used in the illustrations.

Ask if anyone has heard of a song that sounds like the title. Hopefully, someone will answer 'The wheels on the bus'- you can then point out the line on the cover that the tune of the story is the same as the song.



Sing the Wheels on the bus. This will get the children familiar with the tune and allow them to join in the story.

Before you start reading ask if anyone has seen a whale on a bus before. Why not? Because whales live in the sea!

During Reading

The book has double end papers (the papers inside the book cover). Start by looking at the first one inside the front cover, which shows the start of a train. Ask who is driving the train and who are the passengers. Where is the rest of the train? You can check the children's answers when you finish the story and turn to the last page.

Explore the second end paper at the very end of the book. What animals can the children see? Make a list on the blackboard/whiteboard. Talk about the noises each animal makes.

Point out that the title page has the same picture as the cover, but the illustrator and authors names have moved from the whales spouts to be on the bus instead.

Encourage the children to join in the rhyme. Make up some actions to do for each animal eg: ride around the town - pretend to drive with a steering wheel, dive up and down- arms up and down.

Count all the animals on each page.

After Reading

Discuss all the different types of transport the animal use. There are some different vehicles that children may not have heard of before so spending some time explaining those unusual vehicles like gliders, submarines and skis. Talk about the places you would need these types of vehicles or transport.

Talk about how the children got to the centre today. Did they use any of the ways the animals used?

Sing some more transport songs

Row row row your boat,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7otAJa3jui8>

Little Red wagon

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lYqe-l_QSsE

I'm a little airplane

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omTOqecTimU>

Extension Ideas

1. Make a matching game with pictures of different vehicles and cutting them in half. There are several ways you could use this game
 - Put the all the pictures face up on a table and children simply match the 2 halves.
 - Put the pictures face down and use it as a memory game. Each child turns over 2 pictures and see if they have match. If not, then they turn the pictures face down again in the same place. Once all the pictures have been matched children can count how many vehicles they have.
 - Hand out the pictures to all the children in your group. The children then need to find the person holding the matching half

<https://teachingmama.org/transportation-sensory-bin-activities/>

2. Sing this funny song and make all the animal's noises.

The seals on the bus

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MzmJw_0L2c&list=PLcw3Y8sV0xptiwjCuPS-UxXaR_7VeI8y5&index=26

3. Set up a sensory transport tub with dry beans and toy vehicles

<https://teachingmama.org/transportation-sensory-bin-activities/>

STEM Focus

Transportation Sorting Activity

Children have a natural curiosity about the world and love to learn. Sorting is an early scientific skill children love to explore. By sorting toddlers begin to develop reasoning skills as they determine if an item belongs in a certain category. Reasoning skills build a strong foundation for later problem solving.

What you'll need

- Printed pictures of vehicles or vehicle counters
- Printed scene of land, water and air

Place all the pictures or toys into a basket.

Children then sort the vehicles into the area you would find it.

eg Boat - water, jeep - land, glider - sky.

This can be a group activity with lots of discussion about what children know or have observed, or a one-on-one with an individual child.



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:

- **Car Car Truck Jeep** by *Katrina Charman and Nick Sharratt*
- **Oi Cat** by *Kes Gray*
- **Dig, Dump, Roll** by *Sally Sutton*

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.....)!