



Vol. 21 No. 1

# Opening the Gift

## The Wheels On The Bus



September 2016

***The Bus For Us* by Suzanne Bloom**  
***I'm Not Ready!* by Jonathan Allen**  
***The Bus Is For Us* by Michael Rosen**  
***The Bus Stop* by Janet Morgan Stoeke**  
***The Little School Bus* by Margery Cuyler**  
***The Wheels On the Bus* by Jane Cabrera**  
***Red Light, Green Light* by Anastasia Suen**  
***Birdie's First Day of School* by Sujean Rim**  
***Preschool Day Hooray!* by Linda Leopold Strauss**



## Nursery Rhyme: Mary Had a Little Lamb

### Songs & Fingerplays to Share



CD: "The Wheels On the Bus" from Early Childhood Classics by Hap Palmer

#### I'm Driving in My Bus

(tune: "The Farmer In the Dell")

I'm driving in my bus,  
I'm driving in my bus.  
Beep beep, toot toot, I'm driving in my bus.  
(*"drive" with pretend steering wheel*)  
I'm driving very fast,  
I'm driving very fast.  
Beep beep, toot toot, I'm driving very fast.  
(*"drive" with quick movements*)  
I'm driving very slow,  
I'm driving very slow.  
Beep beep, toot toot, I'm driving very slow.  
(*"drive" with slow movements*)  
The light has turned to red,  
the light has turned to red  
Beep beep, toot toot, So I must stop my bus.  
(*put out hand to signal a stop*)  
The light has turned to green,  
The light has turned to green  
Beep beep, toot toot, now I can go again.  
(*"drive" again*)

#### School Bus

School bus, school bus  
Drives around town,  
Picking up and dropping off  
And bumping up and down!  
(*bounce up and down*)  
Turn to the left  
(*lean left*)  
Turn to the right  
(*lean right*)  
This school bus is out of sight!  
Big, loud, and yellow  
Our bus is really neat!  
Hop on up and take the front seat!  
*Once children are familiar with this rhyme, have them line up one behind the other (standing or sitting).*  
*At the last line, name the child in the back and have them hop up to the front seat.*  
*theinspiredtreehouse.com*



#### Bob the Driver

(tune: "Old McDonald")

Bob the driver had a bus, e-i-e-i-o.  
And on his bus there was a horn, e-i-e-i-o.  
With a honk, honk, here and a honk, honk there.  
Here a honk, there a honk, everywhere a honk, honk.  
Bob the driver had a bus, e-i-e-i-o.  
*Continue with: steering wheel — turn, turn motor — vroom, vroom  
blinker — blink, blink  
wheel — spin, spin*  
*lisassstorytimes.blogspot.com*

#### Ring Your Bells

(tune: Jimmy Crack Corn)

Ring your bells, oh ring your bells,  
Ring your bells, oh ring your bells,  
Ring your bells, oh ring those bells,  
It's fun to ring our bells!  
*Continue with:*  
Ring your bells, oh way up high...  
Ring your bells and stomp your feet...  
Ring your bells and turn around...  
Ring your bells and jump up high...  
*Step Into Storytime by Saroj Ghoting*



**Your next visit will be: October**  
**Next month's theme will be: "Treetop Tales"**



## More Books to Share:

*I'm Your Bus* by Marilyn Singer

*Gus, the Dinosaur Bus* by Julia Liu

*I'm New Here* by Anne Sibley O'Brien

*The Babies On the Bus* by Karen Katz

*School's First Day of School* by Adam Rex

*Wake Up Engines* by Denise Dowling Mortensen

*Pete the Cat the Wheels On the Bus* by James Dean

*There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Books* by Lucille Colandro

## Activity Ideas:

**Rice Krispie Treat Stoplights:** Prepare Rice Krispie treats and cut into bar shapes. Provide red, green, and yellow M&M's or Skittles. Encourage children to press the correct color "light" onto their treat: red at the top, yellow in the middle, green on the bottom. [pinterest.com](http://pinterest.com)

**Egg container Bus:** Cut the Styrofoam egg container at the hinge. Then nest the bottom half into the top half: the smooth lid top will let the bus slide on the rug. Next, find a bunch of toy little people and have a child put one person in each cup. Tell them that the people are going for a ride! When the bus is full take turns pushing the bus around the carpet. If you have a large collection of egg cartons, each child could have their own bus; create bus stops around the room where the bus stops for people to get on or off. [toddlerstoddler.com](http://toddlerstoddler.com)

**Wheel and Gear Hunt:** Look for items with visible gears, such as music boxes and clocks, and point out wheels on toy vehicles, wagons and cars. Help your preschooler draw a picture of a vehicle and glue on wheel-shaped pasta for the wheels. Or, create a collage by clipping wheel pictures out of magazines. [oureverydaylife.com](http://oureverydaylife.com)

## Book of the Month:

***Mighty Fine Motor Fun: Fine Motor Activities for Young Children*** by Christy Isbell PTC 152.31  
Young children are naturally curious and during their early years, develop the hand skills (fine motor skills) they will need in order to be successful at play and work for the rest of their lives. The activities in *Mighty Fine Motor Fun* are organized by age; they are useful and creative, but most important, they are fun! With few materials needed, the activities are perfect for both large and small groups and are easy to integrate into any curriculum. Teachers will appreciate the practical, real-world knowledge Isbell offers, and children will love the playful, absorbing activities!



## Road to Reading Tip:



"Parentese", that sing-song way adults speak to babies, is a great learning tool! The elongated vowels, high pitch, exaggerated facial expressions and short, simple sentences actually help infants learn language. Their brains are "mapping" the sounds they are hearing, and talking in a way that gets their attention helps them learn to speak and understand language.

For more tips, go to <http://www.pbs.org/parents/earlylearning/parentese.html>

Questions or Suggestions? Call Melinda Chase, Bel Air Branch, 410-638-3151, ext. 2279

If you have an urgent message for me, please speak with the operator, 410-638-4800 (starting at 8 am)

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