



Choo Choo Blue Storytime

Education Plan



The Big Idea

Being naturally curious, children love to explore how things work. They also love to imagine themselves at the helm powerful steam locomotives, fire trucks, and race cars.

The books in this storytime plan grab attention with stimulating locomotives, fire trucks, race cars, and the fun of bike riding. Use this plan for reading and talking about how we get from here to there. While children love to fantasize about making things go fast, they often need to be reminded to stay safe around trains and other vehicles.

All Aboard for Storytime!

Hello Everyone! My name is conductor _____ and this is my friend Choo Choo Blue! We are happy to see you here for storytime! How did you get here today? We came by _____. Today we're going to read some funny stories about trains and animals that are as curious as we are about riding trains, driving race cars and riding bikes.

Optional Shake Your Wiggles Out Activity!

The following activity is based on our storytime theme and can be used anytime to help children settle in before you begin reading. Clap and sing the song to the tune of "Bingo". Steer children to park and have a seat for today's storytime.

Let's shake your wiggles out and sing:

Choo-Choo-Blue

I have a friend who is a train,

He likes to read and clap-O

Choo-Choo-Blue (Clap! Clap!)

Choo-Choo-Blue (Clap! Clap!)

Choo-Choo-Blue (Clap! Clap!)

Yea! Lets all take a seat now!

Talk About Transportation

Opening Song/Activity

Use a welcome song of your choice or use the following one that expresses some of the fun that goes along with the train theme. Say:

Let's sing a song about a train. It's called, "The Wheels on the Train". Do the motions as you sing along. Ready? Let's sing.

*The wheels on the train go **Clickety-clack! Clickety-clack! Clickety-clack!**
The wheels on the train, go **Clickety-clack! Clickety-clack!**
All along the track.*

*The whistle on the train goes **Whoo-who-who! Whoo-who-who! Whoo-who-who!**
The whistle on the train, goes **Whoo-who-who!**
All along the track.*

*The conductor on the train says **All Aboard! All Aboard! All Aboard!**
The conductor on the train, says **All Aboard!**
All along the track.*

*The people on the train go **Bumpety-Bump, Bumpety-Bump, Bumpety-Bump**
The people on the train go **Bumpety-Bump**
All along the track.*

*The brakes on the train go **Chh-chh-chh! Chh-chh-chh! Chh-chh-chh!**
The brakes on the train, **Chh-chh-chh!**
All along the track.*

Talk about Transportation

The transportation theme is great for combining movement and storytelling ideas. Ask:
What sounds do you like to make when you're pretending to be a car? Firetruck? Train?

Talk About the Books

Today we're going to read a story about the different sounds vehicles make as they are going from place to place, and laugh with animals riding bikes! Let's start with the Big Book.

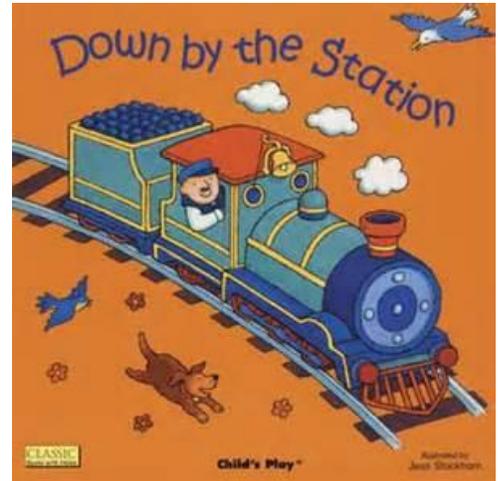
Share the Big Book

Introduce *Down by the Station*

Read Interactively

As you read, pause to ask the children their ideas. This book is filled with details. Help children develop their narrative skills by summarizing the main idea, such as:

- Let's talk about what happened.
- What kinds of vehicles were in the story?



Singing & Listening with Choo Choo Blue

Invite children to stand up and sing along to the “Freight Train” song while they learn about different types of train cars.

Play the song “Freight Train” Track #3 on the Mother Goose Volume Five CD. Use felt train car cutouts or images to go along with the song.



Share a Read-Aloud Book

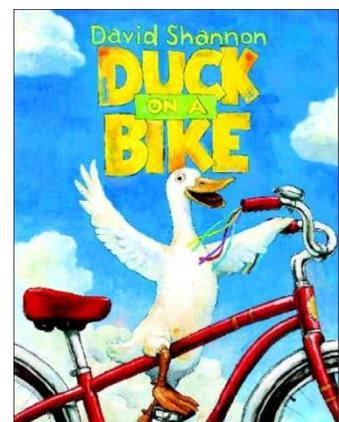
Introduce *Duck on a Bike*

To introduce *Duck on a Bike* show children the cover of the Read-Aloud.

The first book was about transportation vehicles. Look carefully at the cover to see if there's a clue that tells us what this book is going to be about. (Riding Bicycles)

Read Interactively

Invite children to say the animal sounds with you. For very young children, this is a good time to use the character cards on the flannel board.



Red Light-Green Light with Choo Choo Blue



To build on children's curiosity about vehicles and driving in traffic, teach children the game using red and green lanterns cut from construction paper. This also helps lessen children's fear of Choo Choo Blue. Explain that Choo Choo Blue will direct traffic and children will imagine they are vehicles. Children can move around the room as long as Choo Choo Blue is holding up the green lantern, but must stop when the red lantern is raised.

Wrap Up Storytime

Thank the Children and Teacher for allowing . Signal the end of Storytime by encouraging children and teachers to shake hands, high five, or take photos with Choo Choo Blue.

Educational Rationale

Early Literacy Focus

Alphabetic Knowledge: building awareness that letters are different and represent sounds as they identify some letters

Print Motivation: enjoying books and reading

Narrative Skills: telling and retelling stories, recounting events in order

Child Development & Literacy Link

Talking about transportation can lead to talking about children's natural curiosity. Children love to see how things, especially vehicles, work. Attaching children's enjoyment of and curiosity about vehicles to stories on transportation connects children's interests with building literacy.

Alphabetic Knowledge Link

Help children to understand that all the words we hear and say can be written down. And words are made up of letters. So, while reading, pause to point out some letters - both little and big words - so that children begin to associate the shape of the letter with its name.