

Cumbria County Council
Chat Play Share
Rhymes and songs

The 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!

(Lots of other verses available online; or make up your own!)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-wheels-on-the-bus/zdq8gwx>

Birth – 2 years



Enjoy singing the song with your child. See if they start to copy if you add in actions to accompany each verse.

Find a big cardboard box you can sit in. Pretend it's your bus and sing the song together whilst 'driving' along in your bus.

2-3 years



'b' can be a tricky sound for some children to say. After singing the song, emphasise 'b' for bus. Encourage your child to copy you, but don't comment if they find it tricky, just repeat the correct sound again for them to hear. Have fun making up silly rhymes together starting with the same sound, for example 'big bouncing bus's or 'bright blue bus'.

3-4 years



Once your child is familiar with the song, pretend to mix up the words and actions. Do they notice if you say the wipers go 'beep, beep, beep' or if you move your hands round and round whilst singing the wipers go 'swish, swish, swish'? If they notice, ask them what it should be and sing the correct version together. This helps to develop listening and attention skills.

Chat Play Share...Other ideas you could try....

Share a story together about a bus. Chat about the pictures and story.

Examples of stories:

- That's not my bus by Fiona Watt
- Naughty bus by Jan and Jerry Oke
- You can't take an elephant on the bus by Patricia Cleveland-Peck
- The wheels on the bus by Yu-hsuan Huang

Some children prefer information books to stories, if your child is interested look out for books about vehicles.

Playing together with toy vehicles is a great chance to add in lots of different voice sounds for children to hear and copy. Can you make different sounds for different vehicles or alter the volume or speed of the sounds?



Consider taking your child/children for a bus ride. Talk about and point out what you can see as you travel along. Try and add in new words they may not have heard before or add an extra word and repeat back what they say, if they comment. For example, if your child points and says 'sheep' you might say 'yes, a woolly sheep'. This shows them you are listening and helps them learn new words.

Teach older children to play 'I spy with my little eye'. This is a great game to play on a bus (or car/train) journey. Take it in turns to spot something which other people can see and say 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with...(then add the initial letter sound, e.g. h if you can see a horse). Everyone guesses until the correct object is identified and that person has a go. Younger children could start by identifying something of a particular colour if they can't hear and identify sounds yet.

If your child is showing interest in letters and is starting to be able to hear and identify the first sound in words, draw a simple bus picture and challenge your child to find other objects starting with 'b' to place on the bus (e.g. brick, biscuit, ball). Name all the objects together and check they all start with the same initial sound. Give your child lots of praise for finding objects starting with 'b'.

