The Wheels On The Bus
By Sylvie Kantorovitz Wickstrom

The Story
How about going on a bus ride with your children? Wickstrom captures all the actions and characters from the well-known song. The windshield wipers go swoosh, the babies cry, and the bus driver says "Move on back." You and your child can sing along as you read.

There are many children's books that feature popular songs and nursery rhymes. Children love these books because they know what happens next.

Some Ideas for Reading the Book with Young Children

Praise:
You can encourage your children to participate and let them know how much you care about them. Reading to children is the perfect time to build their self-esteem.
Family storybook reading:

Reading should be a family affair. No child is too young and no adult too old to participate in reading. When younger children see an older sibling involved in reading, it makes reading a way of life.

Routine:

There are so many benefits to reading to your child. It is so important to make reading to your child a bad habit! The more you read with your child, the more prepared they will be for school. Their memory skills are growing and they will be able to learn from even reading the same book often!

Before reading the book:

Asking children a few questions before you read the book together can help get them interested.

- Ask if they know the song "The Wheels on the Bus."
- Mention that the book is about that song.

After reading the book:

Asking a few questions to children after you read the book can help them think more about the story.

- Can they remember what happened on the bus?
- Have they ever ridden on a bus?
- Where would they like to go on a bus?
Make your own songbook.

- Think of a song you and your child like to sing together, such as "The Eensy Weensy Spider."
- Have your child draw a picture on a piece of paper of something in the song.
- Then you can write all the words of the song on the page.
- Do this with other songs.
- Staple all the pages together to make your own songbook.
Our Songbook
Go on a letter hunt. Have children search for a letter, such as the first letter in their name. You can write this letter on a piece of paper or even on their hands so that children can see what it looks like. Places to look are books, magazines, junk mail, signs, and license plates.
My Own Wheels On The Bus

Children can make their own bus.

- Pull off the top and bottom flaps of a child-size box.
- Children can use construction paper to make wheels and headlights.
- Use markers to decorate.
- Get in the box and drive "all around town!"
- Have children talk about what they see.

You can make a smaller bus by using a half-gallon or quart-size, cardboard milk carton. Have children cover the carton with white paper and then decorate.
Can You Tell Me?

Read *Wheels on the Bus* with your children. Have them retell the story to you. Start at the first page. Have your child tell you what is happening by looking at the pictures. Go through each page with your child telling you the story as best he or she can. It’s okay if your child does not always get it right. It may help if you sing the *Wheels on the Bus* song.