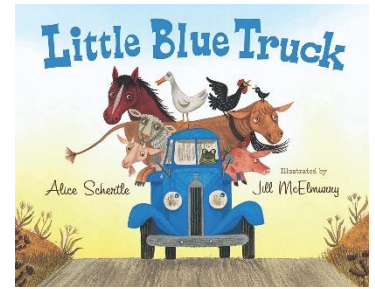


Little Blue Truck is an excellent example of using animal sounds and onomatopoeia, not focusing on ‘reading’ the book page by page.

Like many books, this book has been made into a read-aloud on YouTube. Each video has a different way of presenting the book. This version is animated, and it is less than three minutes long. Reading the book aloud is another way to support early literacy and excitement about a book your child has experienced.



When reading with toddlers, you get one or two pages in, and your child is done. Occasionally your child may bring you the book, and you sit together to read. Then your child closes the book and is all done. This can get frustrating for us, the parents. Look at the ‘story’ to think outside of the book. How can I make this come to life?

[Little Blue Truck's Halloween - A Read Out Loud Animation - YouTube](#)

Some tips for reading with toddlers

1. Find a comfortable place to sit together with the book.
2. Be flexible in how you read the book – your child may be more into the pictures or not want to sit for too long.
 - a. Skip the words, talk about the pictures.
 - b. Show your child things that are familiar to their world.
 - c. Be silly in your voices and facial expressions – this is a great way to encourage mimicking/copying with your child.
 - d. Skip pages – do the pages your child finds interesting at first and slowly add to the story as your child engages more.
3. It is OK to never read a single word in a book and instead focus on the pictures, the familiar, and move at your child’s pace/attention.

Activities you can do at home to support this book

Little Blue Truck story basket. Bring a little basket with farm animals and a blue truck to ‘tell’ the story together. Make the animal sounds, beep beep beep for the blue truck. You can build on the story with different actions and add more animals.

[Little Blue Truck Storytelling Basket - Tales of a Teacher Mom](#)



Sensory Bin You can use various items for this sensory bin – orange and black dried lentils could be fun for Little Blue Truck Halloween. Using a sensory bin gives another chance to build connections with words – scoop, in/out, animal sounds, hiding the animals in the bin, and playing peek-a-boo.

[Little Blue Truck Book & Sensory Play Activity for Preschoolers | Sunny Day Family](#)



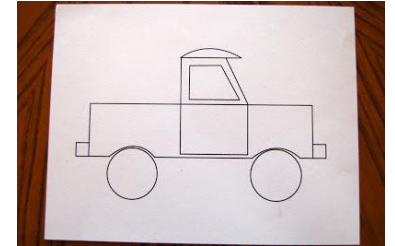
I spy with Little Blue Truck Christmas. Using the different stories in the Little Blue Truck series, you can find the characters you are familiar with – and add more language by labeling the new items. You can add jingle bells and bows to a sensory bin, add little pumpkins to the Halloween book or add baby animals to Springtime. With some books being flap books, you can again play peek-a-boo or ‘I spy’ when you open the flaps.

[Little Blue Truck's Christmas Activities - This Little Home of Mine](#)



Color and paint Storytime. Using a piece of paper, a printable image from Google, or even something pre-made, you can color; use watercolors or dot markers to color while you read the story. Reading a story with a toddler does not always have to involve sitting with you and listening. It could mean you have an activity while reading the book. Let your imagination go!

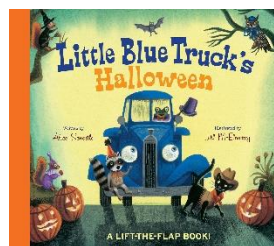
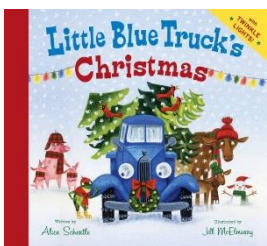
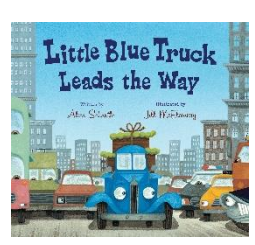
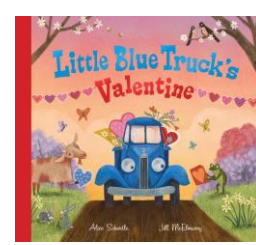
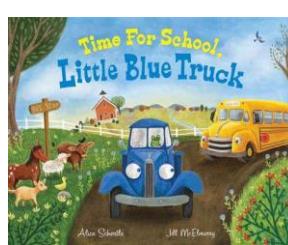
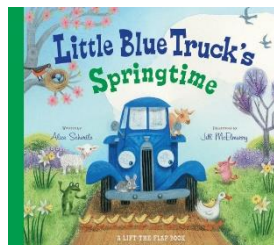
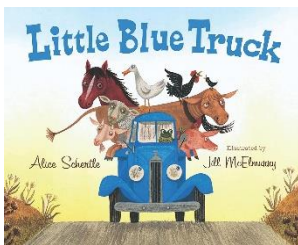
[Story Time "Little Blue Truck" With Craft - I Heart Crafty Things](#)



Edible Story Time – now, hear me out.... you have the plastic animals, you have a truck....and you need mud – chocolate instant pudding! Set up a place that can get messy – outside, inside the highchair, and a cookie sheet at the table. Making instant pudding is a great heavy work activity. Let your little one shake a closed container with the milk and pudding mix until it becomes pudding. Put some on the tray, add a few animals to get in the mud, and drive the truck through. Use graham cracker crumbs to sprinkle on top and whole crackers to dip, scoop, and lick. Not only will you be using lots of languages, but you will also encourage a great memory using a play that will support learning.

Have fun! Emotions help us make memories.

Being silly, funny, and playing support your child’s learning in ways that will make you smile and help them grow.



All book cover images are provided through Google.

Lesson Plan by AnnMarie Adams

Links and photos for this lesson plan are listed in the context of this lesson.