



For ages  
**3-5**

# The Bookworm



From your  
local library  
and Idaho's Read  
to Me program

**October 2010**

## Awareness of Print

Being familiar with printed language helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful. It is one of the six early literacy skills that help young children become readers.

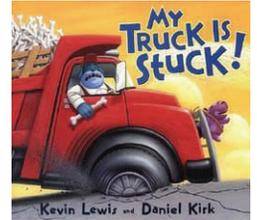
Here are some ways to help your child develop "print awareness":

- Show children that print is all around them. Point it out in signs, on menus, and in books and newspapers.
- Occasionally run your finger along the bottom of words while reading. This helps children understand that print runs from left to right and that you are reading text rather than looking at pictures.
- Point to some words as you say them, especially words that are repeated.
- Label objects around your home, such as "bed," "window," "door," and "toys."
- Let your child turn the pages. When you are done reading, let her hold the book and tell you the story.
- Talk about and play with punctuation marks. Show your child what an exclamation mark and a question mark are, and why you read those sentences differently.
- Encourage children to play with print every day. Help them make lists, write notes, make signs, etc.

Children with print awareness understand that print has different functions; menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can show a favorite restaurant or warn of danger.

## Book of the Month

*My Truck is Stuck*, by  
Kevin Lewis, illustrated  
by Daniel Kirk



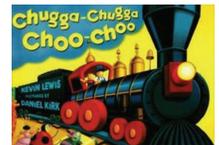
Laugh and count in this hilarious book about a truck that's accidentally driven into a prairie dog hole. As more vehicles arrive to try and pull it out, children can learn basic numbers, find print in signs, and watch the sneaky prairie dogs empty the dump truck's load. Full of rhymes, noisy words, and detailed illustrations, kids will be hauling out this book to read again and again.

**Other books from this author and  
illustrator team:**

*Chugga-Chugga Choo-Choo*

*Tugga-Tugga Tugboat*

*Dinosaur, Dinosaur*



## More books that help build print awareness:

*Knufflebunny: A Cautionary Tale*, Mo Willems

*Smash! Crash!* Jon Scieszka

*Can You Make a Scary Face?* Jan Thomas

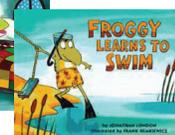
*First the Egg*, Laura Vaccaro Seeger

*Wiggle*, Doreen Cronin

*Put It On the List*, Kristen Darbyshire

*Thunderboomer!* Shutta Crum

Froggy books, Jonathan London



## More fun with *My Truck is Stuck*

**Print awareness...** As you read the story with your child, point out the words on the signs and vehicles. Talk about what those words tell us. Also point out the different types of punctuation marks, and show how these clues tell us how to read the words with emotion.

**I Spy...** The illustrations in this book tell a story all by themselves. Play "I spy" with your child, or just talk about things you notice in the pictures. "I spy with my little eye some suitcases. Can you find them? Where do you think they are going with their suitcases?"

**Movin' and Groovin':** Illustrator Daniel Kirk's website is full of fun and games, including a page of downloadable songs for your computer or MP3 player. Check out the "My Truck is Stuck" song at:

<http://danielkirk.com/dankirkmusic.html>  
(Need access to a computer? Visit your local library!)

### The Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go round and round,  
*(roll hands over each other)*

Round and round, round and round.

The wheels on the bus go round and round,  
All through the town.

*Additional verses:*

The people on the bus bounce up and down  
*(bounce in place)*

The doors on the bus go open/shut  
*(move hands away from each other and back)*

The babies on the bus go "Wah! Wah! Wah!"  
*(make crying motions)*

The mummies on the bus go "Shhh! Shhh! Shhh!"  
*(making shhh-ing motion)*

The driver on the bus says "Move on back!"  
*(motion behind over shoulder)*

## Action Rhyme

### Tool Time

*(Substitute your child's name for "Peter")*

Peter works with 1 hammer, 1 hammer, 1 hammer. Peter works with 1 hammer, now he works with 2. *(one fist moving up and down)*

Peter works with 2 hammers, 2 hammers, 2 hammers, etc. *(two fists)* Now he works with 3.

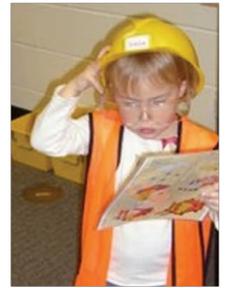
Peter works with 3 hammers, etc. *(two fists and one foot)* Now he works with 4.

Peter works with 4 hammers, etc. *(two fists and two feet)* Now he works with 5.

Peter works with 5 hammers, etc. *(two fists, two feet, and head nodding)*

Now his work is done!

*You can make this rhyme longer by counting backward from 5 hammers down to no hammers before saying, "Now his work is done."*



### What your library can do for you...

Most libraries offer special programs for children, free of charge. Storytimes or special events for preschoolers allow "together time" with fun activities and stories. Ask your librarian about programs offered at your local public library.

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