

Activity Sheet



Engine, Engine, Number Nine

By Stephanie Calmenson, illustrated by Paul Meisel

The Number Nine is rumbling down the rails, picking up lots of eager passengers—Bess and her pet pig, Jake and his prize cow, a gaggle of geese, and a whole marching band! But where is the train heading?

This rollicking rendition of a traditional American children’s rhyme is right on track to young readers.

All aboard for fun!

While you read this book, have your child or children make some of the sounds they might hear from the train and passengers.

After you read this book, play act a train ride in dramatic play. You’ll need luggage, tickets, engineer’s hat, and a hole punch. Just arrange some chairs in rows like the seats on each side of an aisle (like the seats on a train). Select children for the roles of passengers, stationmaster, ticket seller, conductor and engineer. Give the conductor the hole punch to punch the passengers’ tickets after they board.

Remember, few children will have experienced train rides. You will need to stay nearby to assist in role playing for the first few attempts. And don’t forget to shout “all aboard!”

Check out these other books about train rides...

The Train by Donald McPhail

The Train to Lulu’s by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard, illustrated by Robert Casilla

Train Song by Diane Siebert, illustrated by Mike Wimmer

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