

Virtual at Home Storytime
Presented by Everett Pine



Check out the book ***Little Blue Truck*** by Alice Schertle, illustrated by Jill McElmurry on [Hoopla](#). Each day, Monday through Friday, read the book with your child. After reading the book, complete the provided activities.

Repetition is important for strengthening neural pathways in the brain, building language skills, developing a robust vocabulary, and allows children to take an active part in the reading process through memorization and prediction.

Monday- Read with your child. As you start the book you meet the Little Blue Truck. Ask open ended questions such as “Where do you think the little blue truck is going?”. This story also features many animals and the sounds they make. Ask them to make the animal sounds as you meet (and re-meet) each animal before making the sounds yourself. These are simple ways to engage your child in the story and grow a love for reading.

Note: Animal sounds can be different around the world. For example, in this book the cow says “moo!”. Is that the same or different then the way you make cow sounds? Either way this is an opportunity to talk about how there are different ways to make animal sounds.

For Fun: Check out this video for [examples of animal sounds](#) in different countries.

Tuesday- Talk with your child. Make observations about the illustrations. For example by pointing out the falling leaves you can ask “What season has falling leaves?” And as the animals make their different sounds ask them to point out on the page which animal made that sound. This helps practice connecting words to images and vice versa. Whatever the response, follow up with another question to continue the conversation and to practice taking turns talking.

Wednesday- Write with your child. Have your child draw the different characters (animals and trucks) and scenery (barn, road signs, trees, etc.) from the book. Then practice the word by saying and writing the word next to each drawing.

For Fun: Draw two of each, cut out each drawing, and make your own matching game.

Thursday- Sing with your child. Watch and sing along to this [Old MacDonald Had a Farm video](#) and try out this action rhyme about five little trucks to the tune of Five Little Ducks.

Five Little Trucks (Tune: [Five Little Ducks](#))

5 little trucks drove out one day,
Over the hills and far away.
Mama Truck said, “Beep, beep, beep, beep!”
4 little trucks came home to sleep.

*Count on your fingers
Pretend you’re using a steering wheel
Pretend to honk the horn four times
Count on your fingers*

(Repeat)

4 little trucks...

3 little trucks...

2 little trucks...

1 little truck...

No little trucks came home to sleep

Make a zero with your fingers

Mama Truck said, "BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP!"

Pretend to honk the horn really loud four times

1..2..3...4...5 little trucks came home to sleep!

Count on your fingers

Friday- Play with your child. Build a version of the story with boxes and paper tubes! Use your imagination to make trucks, animals, street signs, etc. This is a great opportunity to share and support their storytelling skills. For example, if you're building a truck you can ask "How many wheels should it have?", "What color should it be?", or "What sound does it make?" It's okay if it doesn't match the picture book story. This is your version! When you're done creating the different story elements ask your child how the story begins and as they tell the story, together you can act it out with your creations. Have fun!

Material ideas:

- Boxes (tissue, small shipping boxes, cereal boxes, etc.)
- Paper tubes (toilet paper, paper towel, wrapping paper, etc.)
- Decorate with things you may have at home: construction paper, paint, tissue paper, pipe cleaners, markers, stickers, etc.