Motor Goose
The 2018 CLEL Bell Award Book for SING

by Rebecca Colby, illustrated by Jef Kaminsky
Feiwel and Friends, 2017

Motor Goose is a compilation of classic nursery rhymes that have been rewritten with a transportation theme. Each page is a song centered on a different vehicle and set to familiar tunes such as Mary Had a Little Lamb or Itsy-Bitsy Spider. This book supports singing with children, whether it be classic nursery rhymes or modern children’s classics.

Activity Ideas for Motor Goose:

- Try changing a few of the words in your favorite nursery rhyme to celebrate something a child loves. Nursery rhymes draw attention to the smaller sounds in words, which will help children sound out words when they are learning to read. Give it a try with Itsy-Bitsy Penguin:
  The itsy-bitsy penguin went through the water spout
  Down came the snow and pushed the penguin out.
  Out came the sun and melted all the snow.
  And the itsy-bitsy penguin went through the spout again.

- This book features different types of motor vehicles. When you are out and about, keep your eyes open for vehicles in action. Talk with children about what they see the vehicles doing. When you use specific terms (such as SUV, convertible, tow truck) and actions (parking, reversing, doing a U-turn), children increase their vocabulary and build a knowledge of the world around them. The more words they know, the more words they will be able to recognize on the page.

- Play “cars” with a child! Make the noises the vehicles make; have the vehicles drive on roads, get repaired by mechanics, or park in garages. Encourage children to make up stories where the vehicles talk and have adventures. Where are the cars going? What will they do when they get there? Telling stories helps children learn how to put events in a sequence. Sequencing skills help children better understand the stories you read to them now and will help with reading comprehension when they are readers.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit http://www.ciel.org and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.

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