



Copyright © 2006 Kids' Express Train. All rights reserved.

### ***Activities for Tiny Tony, our puppy.***

Back when our first CD, *Imitation Station*, was recorded, we envisioned an adorable black and white puppy as an assistant for the *Puppy Song*. A couple of years have passed since then, and our *Puppy Song* is as popular as ever, giving us added incentive to create that vision of an adorable puppy.

Tiny Tony, our puppy, was born in Dec. 2005, and can be used with a variety of songs and activities. You are partially right if you say, "He's just a stuffed animal", but when you combine him with our songs written just for him, the backpack with our magnets from our Set B (located on his back), and the pictures of Tony on our CD ROM, ***Pix for Drills on Wheels 1 & 2***, he becomes much more than just another stuffed animal.

Here are some suggestions and activities to try with our puppy.

1. Our *Puppy Song* from **Imitation Station CD**.  
Use our puppy to act out this song. The level of imaginative play in children is directly related to their growth in language. Play is a child's work, and it needs to grow beyond dumping, filling containers, stacking and lining objects in a row. Use our puppy to teach that imaginative play with our song.

Use the song sheet from our **Illustration Station CD** in Set A to follow along while singing or to give as "homework". If a child can associate a "real puppy" (figuratively speaking) with a picture of a puppy, children can then begin to associate symbolic meaning to pictures. Pictures, spoken words, and written words are representations of the real object. Our song sheets can help children understand that when combined with actual objects.

2. Our *Tiny Tony* song from **Drills on Wheels 1 CD**  
This song emphasizes the beginning /t/ and /d/ sounds and the middle /n/. It also focuses on body parts including toes, tail, nose, teeth, tongue, and tummy. Enlarge a picture of Tony from our *Pix for Drills* CD ROM and play a *Tiny Tony* version of "Pin the Tail on the Tony." Laminate the picture of

Tony and the body parts, and attach them to the picture of Tony with Aleene's Tack it Over and Over Glue. You can also attach those same pieces to Tony, the stuffed animal. The glued pieces will stick to him, but will not be permanent.

3. Our *In, Out, Up, Down* song from **Drills on Wheels 2 CD**  
This song also features Tony and has song sheets from the Pix for Drills CD ROM, which illustrate Tony going in, out, up, down, over, under, and all around. Use a box and one of our scarves to fully act out the song.
4. Build a dog house for Tony.  
Use your imagination on how to use Tony. Remember that kids often LOVE puppies and will work hard on speech when involved in activities with them. Make a dog house out of a cardboard box. Put an opening in the back for your hand and a door in the front. Cover the door opening with one of our scarves. Have children practice a signing for "out", saying "out", or producing simple phrases such as "puppy out." If your child is not verbal yet, determine what your child could do to communicate to the dog to come out of his house. Demonstrate first by putting your hand in the back of the house, pushing Tiny Tony out the front door. Have children take a magnet or picture out of Tony's backpack. Encourage your child to indicate getting the puppy to come out again and again to give more magnets.
5. Adapt the song, "Mary Had a Little Lamb".  
Whatever your child's name is, sing his/her name for this little song.

Travis had a little dog, little dog, little dog.  
Travis had a little dog, and Tony was his name.

Tony liked to jump, jump, jump, jump, jump, jump, jump,  
jump, jump.  
Tony liked to jump, jump, jump, and he liked to run.

Tony liked to run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run.  
Tony liked to run, run, run, and he liked to \_\_\_\_\_.

This song can go on as long as you have actions that Tony can do.

6. Adapt the song, "There's a Hole in the Bottom of the Sea".  
And use the puppy to act out these directions. Add as many verses as there are places to put the puppy.

There's a puppy in the sink, in the sink.  
There's a puppy in the sink, in the sink.  
There's a puppy in the sink. Yes, I think.

There's a puppy in the sink, in the sink.

There's a puppy on the chair, on the chair.  
There's a puppy on the chair, on the chair.  
There's a puppy on the chair. Yes, over there.  
There's a puppy on the chair, on the chair.

There's a puppy in the box, in the box.  
There's a puppy in the box, in the box.  
There's a puppy in the box. No, not a fox.  
There's a puppy in the box, in the box.