



Copyright © 2004 Kids' Express Train. All rights reserved.

## Conversation Station CD

### Activities

All Kids' Express Train songs can be sung as an activity unto itself, but if you are interested in expanding on any of these songs, try some of these activities.

### Cheese and Macaroni

Activities:

1. Use hollow plastic tubes (PVC pipe works well) or toilet paper rolls and dream you are a "rock star" when singing this song. The hollow tube will amplify the sounds slightly and give more auditory feedback.
2. When singing this song, tap out the syllables of the words on a child's arm or leg to give children the sense of how many syllables to place in the words. You could also have the children clap out the syllables to help them with this very important pre-reading skill.
3. Use pretend food and take turns putting the food in a big bowl, passing the bowl between you and the children who are playing the game.
4. Use pictures of the different foods in the song to visually reinforce the names of each. Give tissues to each child and practice sneezing during that portion of the song.

### Slide

Activities:

1. Our most important suggestion for this song is to go to the park or someplace where there is a slide, and sing this song while actually doing the activity.
2. Act out this song with a toy slide and little characters to work on imaginative play.
3. Use gestures while singing up, up, up and down, down, down.

### Bananas

Activities:

1. Use our monkey, Chez, to act out the song, giving him pretend bananas.
2. During the chorus where monkey sounds occur, children can pretend to be monkeys in their movements and in their verbalizing.
3. Get pictures of bananas and other fruits or foods. Separate them into groups.

### Brush

Activities:

1. Have hair brushes and tooth brushes and use them to pretend brushing the teeth

and hair on our Chez monkey.

2. Have a collection of toothbrushes and hairbrushes and have children separate them based on the questions, "What do we use to brush our hair?" and "What do we use to brush our teeth?"
3. While singing the song, do actions like you are brushing your hair and teeth.
4. Go to an orthodontist office and ask if they have any plaster teeth imprints to donate. Children love brushing these imprints. You can also use white ceramic tiles to brush. Keep in mind that children using toothbrushes need total supervision and those who tend to mouth objects should not be doing this activity. Children who cannot stay seated should also not be doing this activity.

### **Go**

Activities:

1. Use this song to get children moving in a circle, varying the motion depending on the object the child is riding.
2. The chorus can be used to teach the sign for "go", which you can do by pointing your index fingers forward and gesturing in a downward motion. This sign often verbally entices children to say the word and can be done while singing the chorus.
3. Get pictures of the words used in this song such as wagon, stroller, race car, bus, airplane, and bike.

### **Round We Go**

Activities:

1. Play this song in the same manner that you play Ring Around the Rosie. As you fall down, pat your hands on the ground to the music. Gradually go up, up, up to the words and start again. Children will love the simple repetition of this song.

### **I Dressed Myself**

Activities:

1. Use the free picture sheet on our "Free Stuff" page to tell this story.
2. Have a relay game with the clothing listed in the song.
3. Have a picture of each type of clothing and place them in order of what was stated in the song.

### **I Love**

Activities:

1. This song is excellent for making into a book. Have children draw pictures of each of the objects named in this book. This would be an excellent gift for a parent during Mothers or Fathers Day.
2. Have children discuss what things they love and add to the song. Have the children draw their own pictures and sing their version of the song.
3. Write out the words to this song, and have the children follow along with the words as you listen to the song. (The lyrics are typed in the CD jacket.)
4. To improve articulation of the /l/ sound, hold the jaw stable allowing the tongue to move more.
5. These same lyrics can be sung using the melody of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.

### **What Happened?**

Activities:

1. Act out this song by running in place, jumping, skipping, and flying, and then pretending to fall down.
2. Continue this same question-answering task by showing books with action

pictures, videos of actions, or playing imaginatively with toys to carry this task into other functional activities.

### **No Way**

Activities:

1. The best way to help children understand these verbal absurdities is to illustrate them with pictures.
2. To encourage children to imitate the words, "No way" use an exaggerated gesture to accompany the phrase.

### **Scrambled Eggs**

Activities:

1. Make scrambled eggs while doing this song.
2. Use plastic eggs and pretend to make scrambled eggs with a bowl and spoon.
3. Do motions that make sense to go with the verse.
4. Use egg shakers during this song, especially for children who are unable to participate verbally.

### **Uh-Oh**

Activities:

1. Get a helium balloon and practice letting it go in an area where it can be retrieved. Sing the song as you explore letting the balloon go. Do the same with a cup and a toy, and watch it drop as you sing "uh-oh".
2. Use gestures while singing this song to entice children to imitate "up" and "down" and "no".
3. Hold your hands up to your cheeks when singing "uh-oh" to give a visual cue that entices a child to verbally imitate.

Activities are endless for the songs on Conversation Station. Tell us your ideas.

**Please contact us with any questions or suggestions. Thank you!**

**Rachel Arntson, M.S., CCC  
Speech-Language Pathologist**