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## Welcome to *Pix for Drills on Wheels 1 & 2*

Kids' Express Train believes in using all of the senses to enhance children's learning. We believe in active participation in music in terms of singing, moving, using pictures, and interacting with objects related to our songs. We have found that some children are more willing to practice when music and rhythm are combined with speaking as opposed to singing. Sometimes the reverse is true, so that is why we have created two different ***Drills on Wheels*** – one with speaking (***Drills on Wheels 2***) and the other with singing (***Drills on Wheels 1***).

Using visuals, such as pictures and actual objects that correspond with Kids' Express Train songs, will improve your child's ability to retain the words in our songs.

This CD ROM contains colored pictures for every song on our ***Drills on Wheels*** CDs 1 and 2. Our picture sheets can be grouped in 4 different ways:

1. **Small Follow Along Sheets**
2. **Large Follow Along Sheets**
3. **Flashcards**
4. **Activity Sheets.**

Each song's pictures were created based on the goals of the song and the best way to illustrate the words. We have also included black and white versions of pictures as well. Some of you may want to color our pictures yourselves or have your children color them.

When you are listening to our music, we want you to remember one very important point: your children will learn best when you are involved with them. A CD will never take the place of singing together. Our music is meant to be a tool, to give you ideas of how to practice speech with your child. Our songs are great to listen in the car, in the kitchen, in the living room, in the classroom - ANYWHERE! We encourage you, however, to turn off our music at times and sing our songs, but do them without our prompting - break into spontaneous song and movement, so that your child watches YOU and learns from YOU and not from an electronic device. Feel free to adapt the verses, the tempo, whatever you need to do to help your child learn. We want our music to be successful, and sometimes that will require some slight changes to fit the needs of your child. We encourage you to be creative with our music, and we applaud your efforts.

Having said that, we know our songs have helped countless numbers of children learn how to imitate and have given families hours of enjoyable learning time. Speech and language practice can be difficult, so we wrote the songs to make learning fun. We hope you agree with thousands of others for whom our songs did exactly that.

Here are some general suggestions on how to use our graphics. Go to the Read Me file for specific suggestions on how to navigate through our CD ROM files. To get additional ideas of specific songs on our CDs, please go to our Objectives and Activities files where you will find a wealth of suggestions.

**Small and Large Follow-Along Song Sheets** These song sheets are for following along with the pictures as the song is being played. They contain the lyrics and pictures together, so children can use them as a “read along” musical book. The large sheets can be laminated and used as books. The small sheets contain all of the lyrics of a song on one sheet and are excellent to send home with students as “homework”.

1. Our Follow Along sheets are excellent for teaching children to move from left to right – an important pre-reading skill. Initially, sit with your child while pointing to the pictures as you listen to each song. If you would like fewer pictures on a page, you can cut them line by line, laminate them to single pages, and put them in a notebook. Children will then learn to follow from left to right and will also practice turning pages as they sing and listen.
2. When listening to our songs in the car, these Follow-Along Song Sheets work very well as a distraction for long car rides.
3. If you teach groups of children, you may want to have each child have his or her own song sheet to hold and follow along. You may also want to use some of our larger follow-along sheets for the children to look at as you lead them.
4. Many of our song sheets have pictures that are excellent for matching tasks. It is often helpful to have 2 laminated sheets for some songs such as “Talk and Look”, “I See a Bug”, or “A Monkey, A Moose, A Mouse”. Cut out the individual pictures from one of the follow-along sheets, laminate them, and attach Velcro or Aleene’s Tack it Over and Over Glue to their backs. Those pictures can be matched to the other song sheet. You can also use the individual Velcro pictures to stick on “Chez”, our monkey, or glued pictures to stick on “Tiny Tony” our puppy, as you sing the song.
5. Some of the song sheets, such as “No, No, Nigh, Night” and “All Done Playing” illustrate daily routines. During those activities, use the song sheet to help your child connect the song to pictures, which are said

during those activities. Connecting daily routines with pictures, music, and words will help your child make the connections needed to learn effectively. These songs may also help your child make easier transitions.

6. Collect a series of common objects that match the objects sung in some of the songs. "Talk and Look", "Sounds Make Words", and "What's That?", for example, are excellent songs for this task. These songs all contain the same 12 objects. Those also match the objects on our magnets contained in the *Drills on Wheels* CD set. Teach your child to match the object with the picture or with the magnet pieces.
7. If you use our songs during classroom music time, you may want to print out these song sheets to send them home with students, so they can practice the words with their families.

### **Small and Large Activity Sheets**

Some of our graphics are not made to follow along while the song is being sung. Instead, they are made as an activity to enhance the words in the songs. Activity sheets will have specific instructions written on the sheet itself or on our Objectives and Activities Suggestions included in our CD ROM.

### **Flash Cards**

On this CD ROM you will find some larger flashcards that can be used for making larger song sheets, matching pictures of objects, reading common object names, following directions, and naming and imitating words. Listed below are some ideas for using these flash cards.

#### Suggestions for flash cards

1. Use these pictures as a way to teach signs to young children who need to augment their verbal skills with other modes of communication. Children benefit from seeing the visual stimulus for learning the corresponding sign. Play the song while you sign and sing.
2. Some children do not fully understand that pictures are representations of actual objects. If this is the case, find actual objects that correspond with some of the pictures and begin grouping them.
3. Laminate these pictures and put them in a small notebook that your child can look at while riding in the car.
4. To teach your child categorization, group these pictures in categories such as animals, vehicles, people, things to wear, things to eat or drink, things that are outside, or furniture.
5. Take each picture and pretend it is a letter that you are mailing to someone. Put it in a "pretend" mailbox that you can create with a cardboard box. Kids love putting things in containers with slots! Since the pictures will be laminated, get stickers, and put them on like stamps on the other side. You can even use a crayon to "write an address" on the card.

6. Make a tagboard window with the hole just large enough to show the pictures. Make a pocket on the back side that holds the pictures. Or use a larger mailing envelope, and cut a window on one side. As you sing the song, remove each picture.

**Song Request Sheets – Song sheets to help children request a particular song.**

In addition to the Follow-Along Song Sheets, Activity Sheets, and Flashcards, we have also added Song Request Sheets: Song sheets with pictures that depict each song on these 2 CDs.

Children LOVE our songs, but not every child can request a particular favorite by saying the name of the song. With our Song Request Sheets, children will be able to match the picture with the corresponding song.

1. Use the sentence strip, "I want to sing the \_\_\_\_\_ song." and cut out the individual pictures of each song. Put Velcro on the back of each. Children can choose a song picture, place it in the blank space of the sentence strip, and use it to communicate a song request. Children can also give the single picture to a person without the sentence strip.
2. Teach your child to respond to Wh questions by asking "What song do you want to sing?", and practice having your child choose a picture. As your child gives you the picture, hold it up to your face and say the name of the song. This gives your child both visual and auditory cues.
3. As a song is playing, ask your child to find the picture of the song he/she hears. The ability to match a listening task with a visual picture is an excellent skill and will lead to many other academic skills later, such as awareness of sounds in words and the associated letters of the alphabet.

Enjoy!

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