About My Bus

Young children will enjoy Byron Barton’s bold, vibrant pictures of bus driver Joe’s fun trip through town. They will love following along with the story, as they will be entertained by the simple concepts, modes of transportation, and a day in the life of the bus driver, Joe.

Before Reading My Bus

Tell the children you’ll be reading a book called My Bus. Ask what they know about buses and if they have ever taken a bus ride. Point out that other modes of transportation are also in this book, and have the children look for tokens to get from one place to another. Make a picture chart of the modes of transportation that they talk about (fill the words along with drawings). Challenge the children to look for the mode listed on the chart as you read the book.

My Bus Classroom Activities

1. Build the Bus. After you read the story aloud, choose fifteen children to be the cars and dogs and in the story and pick one child to be the bus driver, Joe. Read the story aloud. Ask the children to imagine that they are on the bus. They can build the bus using cardboard. For example, they can make the windows, doors, and the bus’s shape. After each page, count with the class and say how many passengers are on the bus. The last child on the bus pretends to be the bus driver going home with the passengers.

2. It’s Raining Cats and Dogs! Have the class design a city and draw maps made out of paper plates, while the class creates the city, cars, and dog and cat paper bag puppets. They can use pipe cleaners for whiskers and pre-cut felt or cardboard for the eyes, nose, and ears. The children can use their masks or puppets to act out the story in the class share all the ways they know to get from one place to another.

3. Sing a Song. Teach the classic song “The Wheels on the Bus” to the class. Many versions of this song can be found on the Internet. Then have the children make their own version by adding a verse to the Lyrics. They can sing the song again after making their own version.

4. Number Stories. Tell number stories about buses and how children left on the bus. At the end of the story, the last child on the bus pretends to be the bus driver going home with the passengers.

5. Modes Mural. Make a class mural of a city, including all the modes of transportation. Point out from Barton’s books (My Bus, My Car, Airplanes, Trucks, Boats, Airport, Macaw of the Woods, Post) that every story has a mode of transportation. The class can add the children’s names to the mural. Tell the children to look for the mode listed on the chart as you read the book.

6. Clay Play. Make a playdough model of a city and make the different modes of transportation. Have the children design a city and design a city and create the city, cars, and dog and cat paper bag puppets. They can use pipe cleaners for whiskers and pre-cut felt or cardboard for the eyes, nose, and ears. The children can use their masks or puppets to act out the story.

7. Caution: Construction Zone. Build a three-dimensional town. Ask the students what they would include in their town and let them design a chart. Discuss ideas for buildings, transportation, and recreation areas. Then have groups of 2-3 children choose an idea from the chart to create. The town can be made of building materials such as wooden blocks, legos, milk cartons, or boxes. To add dramatic play, children can use hard hats and tool belts. The class can create vehicles or add toy vehicles after the book has been created.

8. Transportation Classroom Activities

1. Getting from Here to There. Home several destinations and ask kids what they would most likely walk, drive, fly, or sail to get to the destination. If you’re outdoors, you can even add sound effects! Beep! Honk! Takeoff!

2. Board the Bus. After you read the story aloud, choose fifteen children to be the cars and dogs and in the story and pick one child to be the bus driver, Joe. Reread the story. Have the class design a city and the modes of transportation that they can use to get from one place to another. Make a picture chart of the modes of transportation that they talk about (fill the words along with drawings). Challenge the children to look for the mode listed on the chart as you read the book.

3. Caution: Construction Zone. Build a three-dimensional town. Ask the students what they would include in their town and let them design a chart. Discuss ideas for buildings, transportation, and recreation areas. Then have groups of 2-3 children choose an idea from the chart to create. The town can be made of building materials such as wooden blocks, legos, milk cartons, or boxes. To add dramatic play, children can use hard hats and tool belts. The class can create vehicles or add toy vehicles after the book has been created.

4. Create a chart of transportation-related jobs, including such jobs as pilot, bus driver, construction worker, and boat captain. Ask children to think about which job they might like. Why? Have children design hats to go with the job they choose.

5. Vehicle Mall. Arrange for the class to visit an airport or bus or train station. Have one child be the bus driver and one child ask before you go. Take photos along the way. After the trip, write about their experiences and create a class book. Discuss the different vehicles that are on the trip.

6. Stop and Go. Teach the children how to play the game “Stop! Look! Green Light” with different vehicles on the page. Discuss some of the many variations of the game, but the object is always to reach the “stoplight” in one. Child designated as the “stoplight” can even imagine a picture of a traffic light. The other children pretend to be drivers of vehicles. When the stoplight child calls out “stop!” the other children scurry away in hopes of reaching the stoplight before the stoplight calls “go!” The only other mistake is that the children must stop immediately. If they do not stop, they are out of the game. The child continues until someone reaches the “stoplight.” Another child to call out the stoplight wins. This is best played outdoors or in a gym, where there is more room for the children to play.

7. Transportation Chart. Have children tell a story about a transportation experience they have had. When the stoplight child calls out “stop!” the other children scurry away in hopes of reaching the stoplight before the stoplight calls “go!” The child to reach the “stoplight” first wins! This is best played outdoors or in a gym, where there is more room for the children to play.

8. Transportation Classroom Activities

1. Make a class mural of a city and design the city, cars, and dog and cat paper bag puppets. They can use pipe cleaners for whiskers and pre-cut felt or cardboard for the eyes, nose, and ears. The children can use their masks or puppets to act out the story.

2. Teaching the classic song “The Wheels on the Bus” to the class. Many versions of this song can be found on the Internet. Then have the children make their own version by adding a verse to the Lyrics. They can sing the song again after making their own version.

3. Tell number stories about buses and how children left on the bus. At the end of the story, the last child on the bus pretends to be the bus driver going home with the passengers.

4. Make a playdough model of a city and make the different modes of transportation. Have the children design a city and design a city and create the city, cars, and dog and cat paper bag puppets. They can use pipe cleaners for whiskers and pre-cut felt or cardboard for the eyes, nose, and ears. The children can use their masks or puppets to act out the story.

5. Caution: Construction Zone. Build a three-dimensional town. Ask the students what they would include in their town and let them design a chart. Discuss ideas for buildings, transportation, and recreation areas. Then have groups of 2-3 children choose an idea from the chart to create. The town can be made of building materials such as wooden blocks, legos, milk cartons, or boxes. To add dramatic play, children can use hard hats and tool belts. The class can create vehicles or add toy vehicles after the book has been created.

6. Transportation Classroom Activities

1. Create a chart of transportation-related jobs, including such jobs as pilot, bus driver, construction worker, and boat captain. Ask children to think about which job they might like. Why? Have children design hats to go with the job they choose.

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My Bus Classroom Activities

1. Board the Bus. After you read the story, signal the children to come on! Ask the children how many passengers were on the bus. Count the children as they come on the bus. After each page, count with the class and say how many passengers are on the bus. Continue reading and have the children disembark and pretend to sail, fly, or ride away. Each time, count with the class and say how many passengers are left on the bus. At the end of the story, have the class pretend to be the bus driver going home. Ask questions that require the children to use numbers, such as, “If you were to add one more child to the bus, how many children would be on the bus?”

2. It’s Raining Cats and Dogs! Have the class design and build a mural of a city, including all the modes of transportation from Byron Barton’s books (My My My Car, Airplanes, Trucks, trains, boats, airports, machines at work). Plan out the class. Have children draw and cut out trucks, trains, boats, airplanes, cars, buses, and construction vehicles. Or you can provide them with stickers or penciled pictures that they can color out. Other options for designing the mural or paper are to create a cardboard cutout of the vehicles with Velcro so that children can move them around. What if you could make vehicles out of other actual rides? For example, the children could use actual bus or train tickets, or plane tickets, train tickets, or boat tickets (such as, “Which way do the most kids in this group like to travel?” and “How many kids here like to ride the train?”)

3. Caution: Construction Zone. Have the students make different vehicles using construction vehicles. Or you can provide them with materials such as wooden blocks, Legos, milk cartons, egg cartons, and paint, and have the children build a three-dimensional Caution: Construction Zone. Have the children create different vehicles using construction vehicles or paper plates, construction paper, cardboard, and change their positions. You can use a map, globe, or Google Earth to plan the trip and have the children create a graphic organizer. Why? Have children design hats to go with the job they would like to play. Have them design tickets and have tickets to board the bus, train, plane, or boat. Have children help one another “travel” by taking each other for pretend rides using the cardboard cutouts from the Build a Bus activity. If you’re outdoors, you can even attach the cutouts to a wagon and children can take turns riding in one place from another.

4. Sing a Song. Teach the classic song “The Wheels on the Bus” on the bus. Many versions of this song can be found on the Internet. Then help the children make their own version of the song. If you want to get creative, the class will use paper plates or even the new verses on a chart, and sing the song again. This movement activity can be added to this activity as well.

5. Number Stories. Tell number stories about bus rides and have children act them out. For example, “Five kids got on the bus. Two kids got off at the playground. How many kids were left on the bus?” Ask the children to come up with their own number stories. You can ask the children to come up with their own number stories. You can also ask the children to come up with their own number stories. You can also ask the children to come up with their own number stories. You can also ask the children to come up with their own number stories.

Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening)


6. Play: Creating a Play. Say play or dough. Have the students make different vehicles using one of these materials. Then, if desired, children can use these vehicles in the Classroom: Construction Zone activity.

7. How Many. Boarding. Ask children to imagine they could travel anywhere in the country. Where would they want to go? Why? Create a list of destinations. Then tell them they will pretend to take a bus or train or plane to their destination. Have children design tickets and then “buy” tickets to board the bus, train, or plane. Have children help one another “travel” by taking each other for pretend rides using the cardboard cutouts from the Build a Bus activity. If you’re outdoors, you can even attach the cutouts to a wagon and children can take turns riding in one place from another.

8. Tell the story of the trip, write about their experiences and create a class book using the photos from their trip. The children can “pair share” their story with a partner and then retell it or share a different story with an adult. You can use a map, globe, or Google Earth to plan the trip and have the children create a graphic organizer. Why? Have children design hats to go with the job they would like to play. Have them design tickets and have tickets to board the bus, train, plane, or boat. Have children help one another “travel” by taking each other for pretend rides using the cardboard cutouts from the Build a Bus activity.

9. Construction Zone. Build a three-dimensional town. Ask the children what they would like to include in their town, and let their ideas on a chart. Discuss ideas for buildings, transportation, and recreation areas. Then group have groups of 2-3 children choose an idea from the chart to create. The town can be built using materials such as wooden blocks, Legos, milk cartons, or boxes. To add dramatic play, children can add hard hats and tool belts. The class can create vehicles or add toy vehicles after the town has been created.

10. Do Your Job. Make a chart of transportation-related jobs, including such jobs as pilot, bus driver, train conductor, construction worker, and bus driver. Ask children to think about which job they might like. Have children design hats to go with the job they choose.

11. Vehicle Mall. Arrange for the class to visit a airport or bus or train station. Prepare a class trip with the children, and get your permission slip ready. Ask what they would like to see. Ask the children to make a list of questions about transportation. Before the trip, have the children make a graph about transportation. What mode of transportation do they use the most? What mode of transportation do they least use? What other modes of transportation are in this book, and have the children make a chart of transportation-related jobs, including such jobs as pilot, bus driver, train conductor, construction worker, and bus driver. Ask children to think about which job they might like.
Before Reading My Bus
Tell the children you’ll be reading a book called My Bus. Ask what they know about buses and if they have ever taken a bus ride. Point out that other modes of transportation are also in this book, and have the class share at the start they know to get from one place to another. Make a picture chart of the modes of transportation that they talk about (fill the words along with drawing). Challenge the children to look for the modes listed on the chart as you read the book.

My Bus Classroom Activities
1. Build a Bus. After you read the story aloud, select several children to be the cars and dogs in the story and pick one child to be the bus driver. Joe. Rearrange the story page by page, count with the class and say how many passengers are on the bus. Continue reading and have the children disembark and pretend to sail, fly, or ride away. Each page, count with the class and say how many passengers are left on the bus. At the end of the story, have the last child pretend to drive the bus. Joe.
2. It’s raining Cats and Dogs! Have the class design and cut out paper dog, cat, and bus shapes. The children can glue the shapes on large pieces of colored paper for the eyes, nose, and ears. The children can use their masks or puppets to act out the story in the Bus and the Bus Driver Joe.
3. Build a Bus. Build a bus (and the other modes of transportation) out of outgassed corrugated cardboard. Tell the children they can also add “stoplight” and “stoplight” and can even hold a picture of a train, or plane. Children can help one another “travel” by taking each other for pretend rides using the cardboard cutouts from the Build a Bus activity. If you’re outdoors, you can even attach the cutouts to a wagon and children can give each other actual rides.

About My Bus
Young children will relish Byron Barton’s bold, vibrant pictures of bus driver Joe’s journey through town. As Joe travels along his bus route, passengers hop on and off all day long. As children follow along with the story, they will experiment with numbers, modes of transportation, and a day in the life of the bus driver Joe.

1. Sing a Song. Teach the classic song “The Wheels on the Bus” to the class. Many versions of this song can be found on the internet. Then have the children make their own version of the song by adding in the new verses on a chart, and sing the song again. Then have the children make an art project with the words and song. Movement can be added to this activity as well.

2. Number Stories. Tell number stories about bus rides and have children act them out for you. For example: “Five kids get on the bus. Two kids get off at the playground. How many kids were left in the bus? Three more children get on at the museum. How many children are on the bus? You can make pictures or write number sentences to match the number stories.

3. Modes Mural. Make a class mural of a city, including all the modes of transportation from Barton’s books (My Bus, My Car, My Airplane, Trucks, Buses, Airport, Machines at Work). Plan out the new city with the class. Fist have children draw and cut out trucks, buses, trains, airplanes, cars, and construction vehicles. Or you can provide them with stencils or printed pictures that they can color and cut out. One child can design the roadways, another the mural paper and include roadways, an airport, a train station, a zoo, a park, a construction site, and a river in their city. They can decide to glue the vehicles onto the mural or to create an interactive mural by affixing the vehicles with Velcro so that children can move and change their positions.

4. Caution: Construction Zone. Build a three-dimensional town. Ask the student what they should include in their town, and let their ideas on a chart. Discuss ideas for buildings, transportation, and recreation areas. Then have groups of 2-3 children choose an idea from the chart to create. The town can be built using materials such as wooden blocks, legos, milk cartons, or boxes. To add dramatic play, children can use hard hats and tool belts. The class can create vehicles or add toy vehicles after the town has been created.

5. Transportation Tales. Have children tell a story about the bus going through town. What time of day is it when they rode a bus, train, plane, or boat? First they can “pair share” their story with a partner and then retell it or share a different story with an adult.

6. Vehicle Visit. Arrange for the class to visit an airport, train or bus station. Prepare a list of questions to ask before you go. Take photos along the way. After the trip, write about their experiences and create a class book showing the photos.

7. Do Your Job. Make a chart of transportation-related jobs, including such jobs as pilot, bus driver, train conductor, construction worker, police officer. Ask children to think about which job they might like. Why? Have children design hats to go with the job they choose.

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More Transportation Classroom Activities