



Cuyahoga County
Public Library



All Around the Town!

TALK

When you are walking, driving or riding a bus on the way to your destination, notice and talk about the colors and types of vehicles you see. Use and explain words that your child might not understand (i.e. traffic jam, rush hour, accident, one way, cul-de-sac).

At the grocery store name unfamiliar items for your child (i.e. eggplant, lobster, bagel, tofu). Read items off of your list and check them as you go. Read signs and explain what is sold in each area (i.e. produce, bakery, dairy, meat).

When you are at the bank, explain the difference between bills and coins and tell their names and values. Talk about how people "earn" money, then "deposit" it before they can "withdraw" it. Practice with a piggy bank at home!

Count people in line ahead of you. Use words like "first," "third" and "last."

SING

"Tommy Thumbs"

Tommy Thumbs up (hold both thumbs up)

Tommy Thumbs down (switch thumbs down)

Tommy Thumbs dancing all around the town (move thumbs all around)

Dance them on your shoulders (tap thumbs on shoulders)

Dance them on your head (tap thumbs on head)

Dance them on your knees (tap thumbs on knees)

Now tuck them into bed! (fold hands together)

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See reverse.

READ

Lola at the Library by Anna McQuinn

PLAY

Line up chairs in the row and pretend you are in a car or bus. Use a paper plate as the steering wheel and have family members take turns driving to fun destinations. Sing the "Wheels on the Bus" song as you "drive".

Play grocery store at home by saving empty cardboard cereal, pasta, cracker boxes, etc. Make your own money with paper and markers and push a laundry basket as a grocery cart. Take turns being customer and cashier.

Write a letter together with your child or draw a picture for someone special and take it to a mailbox or post office together to mail it. Better yet, write one to yourselves and give your child the experience of receiving mail.

When you visit a bank, grab some extra deposit slips for your child to write on. Have a lemonade stand or a garage sale to earn some money for your child's piggy bank (an empty, washed pickle jar works well).

Visit the library so that your child can play and interact with other children, attend story times and check out books!

Try some other free fun excursions about town, like the zoo (which is free on Mondays), Art Museum, pet shop, parks, Lake Erie, outdoor markets. Listen to a high school marching band practice. Watch construction workers and trucks from a safe spot.

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