

The  
Early Years Count  
**Literacy**  
Connection



**With Any Luck,  
I'll Drive a Truck**

Written by David Friend  
Illustrated by Michael Rex

*Preschool edition*

### Overview of Book

Learn the names of helpful vehicles for construction and other jobs in the city and on the farm while enjoying a fun, fast-paced story told in rhyme. A child's interest and experiences with vehicles makes it easy to know what to be when he grows up! Maybe you'll want to do the same.

Genre: Poetry/verse, informational

### Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *With Any Luck, I'll Drive a Truck* to introduce in your classroom:

all sorts of vehicle names  
creaky            plow  
concrete        baling

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

### Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

*COR Advantage 1.5*

Approaches to Learning  
Item A  
(Initiative and planning)

Item B  
(Problem solving with  
materials)

Science & Technology  
Item BB  
(Observing and classifying)

Item EE  
(Tools and technology)

### Reading Tips

Read the story with a consistent beat to emphasize the rhymes. It would be fun to tap your knee and encourage the children to imitate this as you read along with the beat. Give the children a toy truck from the book to hold as you read and ask them to hold theirs up when it is part of the story. Ask questions like, "What is happening on this page?"

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

At the end of each reading, display the book in the book area so children can read it on their own.

### **Throughout the Routine**

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Have on-going voting for favorite truck from the book at **Greeting Time**. Tally results weekly to determine the class's favorite.

Have similar trucks in **Small Group** baskets along with open-ended materials like beads, small counters and play dough.

After this initial play practice, put the vehicles in the Block Area for continued play during **Work Time**.

Bring the trucks with you at **Outside Time** to use with real materials.

### **Around the Room**

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Provide a range of construction and community helper trucks and vehicles in the **Block Area** and **Sand and Water Area**.

Provide other related books and stories about trucks and vehicles in the **Book Area**. For example, *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* by Virginia Lee Burton and any of the "Otis the tractor" stories by Loren Long.

Use the vehicles and trucks with paint in the **Art Area**.

### **Open-ended Questions**

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *With Any Luck, I'll Drive a Truck*:

What would you build or fix if you drove this truck?

Which is your favorite truck? Why?

Which is more interesting to you—city trucks or the farm trucks? Why?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact*  
***The Family Connection:***

website—  
[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

Facebook—  
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### **@ Home**

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *With Any Luck, I'll Drive a Truck* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

*With Any Luck, I'll Drive a Truck* is becoming a favorite book in our classroom. While reading this book with your child, take some time to talk about each page and all that is going on. Ask questions like, "Tell me about what is happening here," "What are the trucks doing now?" or, "Why are they tearing that building down?" Linger on pages your child likes best. Have fun with the rhymes—invite your child to fill in the rhyming words. While out and about in your neighborhood and on errands, be on the lookout for trucks. You might say, "Oh—there's one! Which truck is that?"