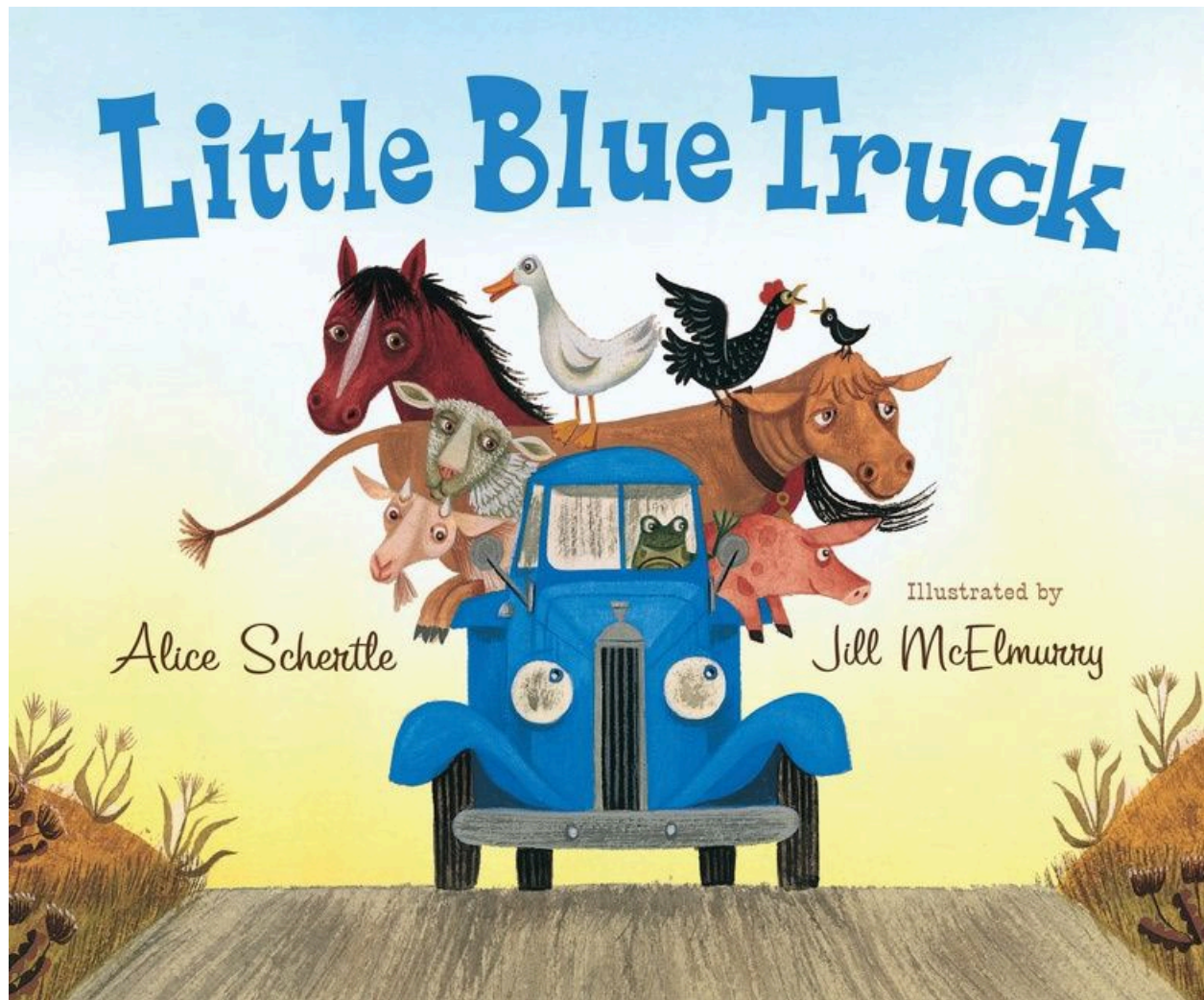


Lesson Plans for Little Blue Truck



Written by Alice Schertle and Illustrated by Jill McElmurry

Beep! Beep! Meet Blue! Filled with truck sounds and animal noises, *Little Blue Truck* is a rollicking homage to the power of friendship and the rewards of helping others. -

[Little Blue Truck](#)

Sensory

Little Blue Truck Sensory Bin

Prep time: 5-10 minutes

Sensory bins are ideal for children of all ages. They provide learning opportunities that work fine motor skills, imaginative play, and cognitive development. They can also help increase vocabulary. At the end of the day, sensory bins are fun and engaging and always popular classroom activities.

Fill a container with the filler of your choice. Corn, dirt, brown and green tissue paper all work well for a *Little Blue Truck* theme (or any farm theme). For infants and toddlers, be sure to use filler that can be put in the mouth, such as raw pasta or beans. Add toy trucks and farm animals. You can also add something like playdoh or clay for the trucks to get stuck in, if you would like. If you're feeling extra brave, add real mud! Just be sure to include some towels for cleanup. Keep the book nearby so you or the children can refer to it as they play. (Photo credit: [Big Red Barn Sensory Small World | Still Playing School](#))



Gross Motor

Animal moves

Prep time: N/A

Activities like this one are good to keep in your back pocket for transition times or when you need to keep your students entertained for a few minutes between tasks. It's also a quick way to refer to the book after you've read it to your class.

Use the cards below to encourage your children to move and sound like the animals in *Little Blue Truck*. Do the sounds and motions with them, as you're able, to encourage mirroring behavior and mimicry.

Art

Tractor Painting

Prep time: 5-10 minutes

If you've never let children paint with cars and trucks before, you're in for a treat. This activity is such fun and always popular. It's also a perfect activity for *Little Blue Truck* because of the mud the trucks get stuck in and all the tracks the animals leave behind when they help, giving children a concrete connection between literacy and art.

Lay out a large piece of paper. Set out brown, white, black, and green paint (or any colors, really) and toy trucks and animals. You can put the paint directly on the paper (to make the activity easier for younger children) or on paper plates. Allow the children to drag the toys through the paint. Document their interactions and pay attention to/write down what they say. These observations and quotes are excellent for assessments as well showcasing a child's learning journey.



(Photos from my own classroom)

Bonus activity: Set out some bins of water, add soap and sponges. Let the children scrub the painted tractors and animals clean!

Literacy

Vocabulary Words

Below you will find real photo reference cards for the vehicles and animals found in the book. These aren't meant to be flashcards! Rather, they are display photos to place in your room or use in the sensory bin or house in your writing center. Whichever way you use them, hopefully they allow your students to connect further with the story.

Farm and Rhyming Books

As always, reading together is the best way to get children ready to read. *Little Blue Truck* is a classic for a reason! It's fun to read, has animal noises, beautiful illustrations, and is in rhyme. It also provides an excellent segue to other books that feature farms and/or rhyming. Here are two lists from NPL to get you started:

[Not To Be Missed Rhyming Books | Nashville Public Library](#)

[Picture Books for National Farmers Market Week! | Nashville Public Library](#)

Blocks

Roadblock

Prep time: 5-10 minutes

The goal of this activity isn't just entertainment. Using a toy car to follow a tape line increases hand-eye coordination and strengthens gross motor skills while the children crawl around.

Take a roll of masking tape and tape down a road for the tractor, farm animals, and truck to travel down. You can make it a maze or place blocks in the way to make it interesting. You can even add brown paper for mud. Don't worry about making it fancy, your students will take what you give them and roll with it. In fact, you could encourage them to create things like road signs in the art center so that they can build their own road universe.



(Photo credit: [AppleGreen Cottage](#))

Music

Old MacDonald Had a Farm

While *Little Blue Truck* doesn't have a farmer, we can always just use our imaginations! Using the animals from the book to sing the song, encourage your students to try and sing the animals' names and sounds in the same order that they are introduced in the book. This will encourage sequencing, an important building block when children are learning to read.

LIKE AN ANIMAL!



Make your best sheep
sounds



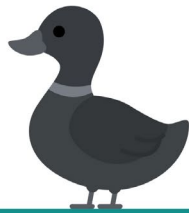
Gallop like a horse



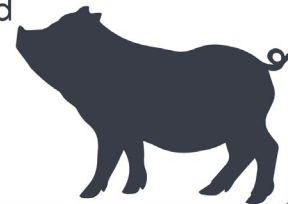
Frog hop up
and down



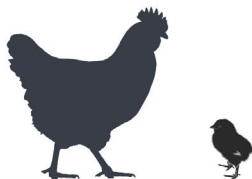
Squat and waddle like a duck



Pigs love to roll
in the mud



Cluck, flap your wings,
and peck like a chicken



Jump like a goat





Truck



Toad



Sheep



Cow



Pig



Chicken



Chick



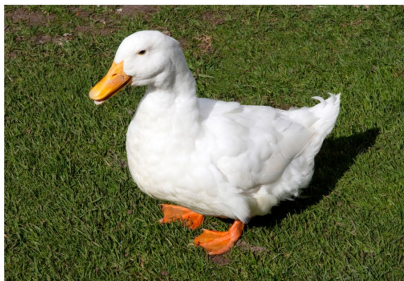
Cow



Goat



Horse



Duck



Dump Truck