

# CURRICULUM BUILDERS



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

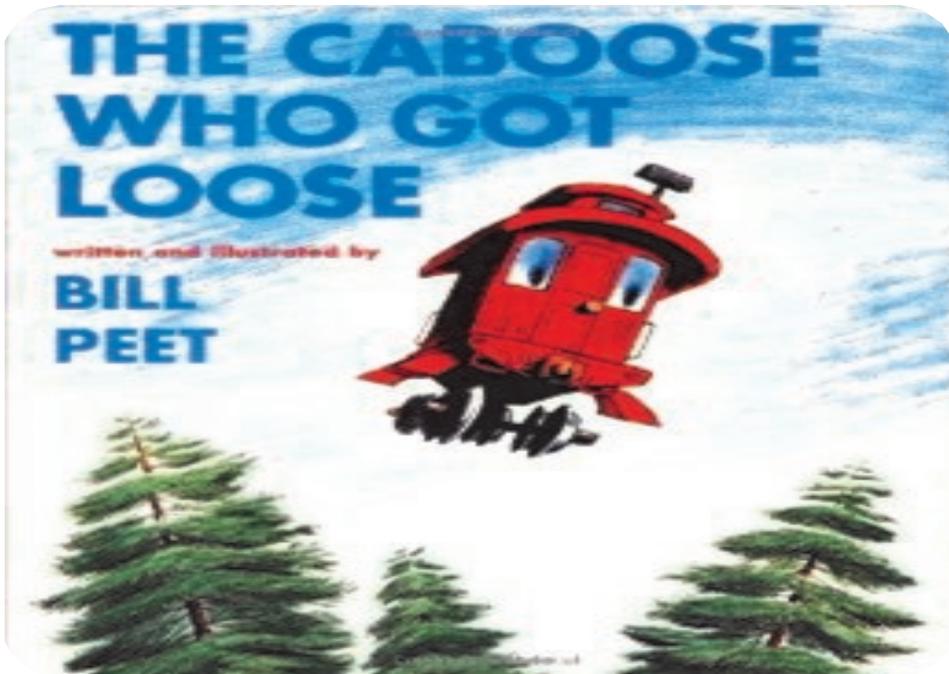
CHILD CARE RESOURCE SERVICE

RESOURCE AND REFERRAL

January 2016

[www.crs.ymca.org](http://www.crs.ymca.org)

SUPPORTING CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



## ABOUT THE STORY

*The Caboose Who Got Loose*

By: *Bill Peet*

Katy Caboose is tired of being last, and one day an accident separating her from the rest of the train will allow her to realize her dream of peace and solitude.

## STORY STRETCHERS

While reading the story, ask children open ended questions that will encourage comprehension and deeper thinking. Below are some questions to ask.

- Why did Katy Caboose not want to be last on the train?
- What was Katy afraid of?
- How did Katy The Caboose become free from the rest of the train?
- Where did Katy end up after separating from the train?
- How do you think Katy felt once she landed in the tree?

## CRS RESOURCE LIBRARY

Curriculum Resource books and toys are available to check out at our library. Call 619-521-3055 ext. 2304 to make a CRS Resource Library appointment.

## WEB SITES

Here are some websites to give you more curriculum ideas:

<https://preschoolcurriculumbytheme.wordpress.com/2010/07/24/trains/>

<http://www.toddlerthings.com/2012/09/trains-toddler-crafts-activities-and.html>

<http://play-trains.com/top-10-summer-train-activities-kids/>

## CONNECT WITH US!

Learn about upcoming events, Wellness Wednesday, Frugal Friday and more:

[www.facebook.com/YMCA.CRS](http://www.facebook.com/YMCA.CRS)

[www.crs.ymca.org](http://www.crs.ymca.org)



## PUZZLES



As children fit together the colorful, interlocking number pieces on this adorable train, they can also practice counting from 1 to 20.

This item may be checked out at the YMCA CRS Resource and Toy Lending Library.

## OUTDOOR PLAY

### LOOSE CABOOSE TRAIN GAME

Choose one child to be a caboose. Have the rest of the children create one or more trains by hooking together. The caboose tries to catch onto the back of one of the trains. Trains chug around and try to avoid being caught by the caboose. When the caboose catches a train, the engine of that train becomes the next caboose.

## DRAMATIC PLAY

Invite children to paint or decorate a few cardboard boxes. Once the boxes have dried, connect them as a train. Add masking tape to the floor to resemble train tracks. Add whistles, hats, train tickets, a hole punch or stamps, and suitcases to the Dramatic Play Area.



Picture credit: [www.ourcraftsthings.com](http://www.ourcraftsthings.com)

## SNACK

### SNACK TRAIN

#### Ingredients:

- Saltine Crackers/  
Graham crackers
- Ritz Crackers
- Banana, orange,  
strawberry, and/or  
kiwi slices
- Peanut Butter/  
Wowbutter (nut free  
alternative)

#### Instructions:

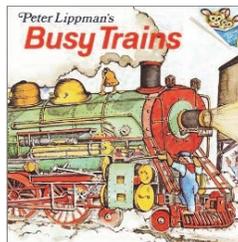
- Encourage children to line up the saltine crackers as the train cars
- Spread Peanut Butter/Wowbutter onto the saltine crackers
- Use banana slices or Ritz crackers as the train wheels.
- Children may use additional ingredients as they see fit
- Eat up and Enjoy!



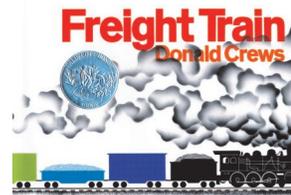
## LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

### BOOKS

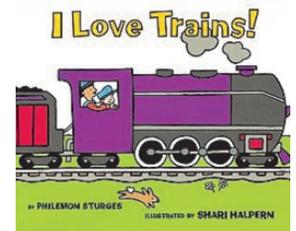
All books may be checked out at the YMCA CRS Resource and Toy Lending Library.



**Busy Trains**  
by Peter Lippman



**Freight Trains**  
by Donald Crews



**I Love Trains!**  
by Philemon Sturges

### FINGERPLAY

#### Choo Choo Train

This is a choo choo train  
(bend elbows)

Puffing down the track  
(rotate arms in rhythm)

Now it's going forward  
(push forward, continue rotating  
motion)

Now it's going back  
(pull arms back, continue rotating  
motion)

Now the bell is ringing  
(pretend to pull the cord – ding  
ding)

Now the whistle blows  
(hold fist near mouth and toot  
toot)

What a lot of noise it makes  
(cover ears)

Everywhere it goes.  
(stretch out arms)