Chugga Chugga Choo Choo by Emma Garcia is a delightful book for train loving young ones. Children will have fun joining in the repetitive phrase, Chugga chugga choo choo. All aboard, come along and join in as the cheerful little train chugs past the seaside, the farm, the forest, the city and into the station for a nice long rest. Along the way, a flock of noisy seagulls, blackbirds, pigeons and geese hop on for the ride. Children will enjoy the beautiful collaged illustrations of colorful landscapes and counting the honking and tweeting birds throughout.

You can help children develop essential early literacy skills by reading, talking, writing, singing and playing with them every day. Use the following suggestions as you share Chugga Chugga Choo Choo.

**Ask Open-Ended Questions Before and After Story**

**Before the Story**
- *Introduce the story:* Have you ever ridden or seen a train? This book is about a train that takes a trip along the train tracks and sees many things on his journey.
- What is on the cover of the book?
- How does a train sound?
- Where do you think the train is going?
- Who do you think the train will pick up along the way?
- If you could ride the train, where would you go?

**After the Story**
- Where did the train go?
- What kind of animals did the train meet in the forest?
- What other animals live in the forest?
- What can you see in a city besides tall buildings?
- Who did the train see in the farmyard?
- When he was at the seaside they tasted ice cream, what kind of ice cream would you like to taste?
- Where do you think the train will go next?

**Introduce New Vocabulary and Concepts**

Explaining unfamiliar words and concepts will help expand children’s vocabulary, develop their background knowledge and enhance future read alouds.

- *chugga chugga choo choo:* sound a train makes
- *clickety clack:* sound a train makes on a track
- *seaside:* beach
- *taste:* if food is yummy or yucky
- *city:* lots of buildings and cars
- *farmyard:* a place where farm animals live

This book provides a way to introduce concepts of counting, colors and senses.
Engage Toddlers in Early Literacy Book Extension Activities

Using Chugga Chugga Choo Choo

- Sing “Trains” (see below) and invite children hold onto each other’s waists and choo-choo around the room.
- Play train track ABC. Gather some train tracks or large rectangular blocks. Write letters on little circle stickers and stick them onto the middle of your train tracks. Invite children to say the letter on the track as they put the tracks together.
- Ride a color train. Cut colored paper to make tickets. Give each child a ticket. Chug around the classroom pretending to be a train. When you stop, call out “All aboard the red train.” Children with a red ticket can hook up onto your back for a ride around the room. Continue by calling out the other ticket colors.
- Make a name train. Cut out train template and write a letter on each train car. Invite children to find the first letter in their name to make a name train.
- Make a color train. Cut out and color the train template. Invite children to assemble the train as you ask them to find the colors.

Sing Songs and Chant Rhymes About Trains

Traveling, Traveling Song
(Tune: “Row, Row, Row, Your Boat”)
Row, row, row your boat,
Gently round the lake.
Traveling, traveling on the water,
Boats are what you take.

Drive, drive, drive your car,
Have a merry cruise.
Traveling, traveling on the road,
Cars are what you use.

Fly, fly, fly your plane,
High up in the air.
Traveling, traveling through the sky,
Planes will get you there.

Chug, chug, chug your train,
Chug along the track.
Traveling, traveling on the rails,
Trains go there and back.

Stamp, stamp, stamp your feet,
Stamp them on the ground.
Traveling, traveling on your feet,
Walk to get around.

This is a Choo Choo Train
This is a choo choo train.
Puffing down the track. (Squat down and move arms in a circular motion with elbows bent)

Now it’s going forward, (Move forward and continue to move arms in a circular motion)
Now it’s going back. (Move backward and circle their arms in the opposite direction)
Now its bell is ringing.

Ding, ding, ding. (Pull a make believe bell rope)
What a lot of noise it makes. (Make train noises)
Everywhere it goes. (Move around the room at random)

Engine, Engine Number Nine
Engine, engine number nine.
(Slide palms back and forth)
Going down Chicago line.
If the train should jump the track,
Do you want your money back? (Stop sliding palms and hold one hand out and say “yeah”)

Trains
Here’s a little choo-choo train.
Chugging down the track.
Now it goes forward.
Now it goes back.
Now the whistle blows.

Whooooo, Whooooooo!
What a lot of noise it makes. Everywhere it goes.