Where’s My T-R-U-C-K? by Karen Beaumont is an enjoyable picture book where a little boy, Tommy, is “not himself.” He is in a bad mood. He cannot find his favorite toy – a red t-r-u-c-k. All the diversions his family tries to offer is to no avail. It’s just not as fun as his favorite red t-r-u-c-k. But, the family dog, Bowser, is not as fussy about what he plays with. Bowser has a secret hiding place for toys. Tommy discovers Bowser’s secret and finally finds his t-r-u-c-k!

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 Where’s my T-R-U-C-K?

Ask Open-Ended Questions Before and After Story

Before the Story

- *Introduce the story:* Tommy has lost his favorite red truck. No matter what his family does, nothing is as fun as his favorite toy.
- What does T-R-U-C-K spell?
- What are some of the toys you see on the cover?
- Have you ever lost anything? How did that make you feel?
- If you lost your favorite toy, where would you look for it?

After the Story

- Was Tommy upset? How did you know that?
- Where did Tommy look for his truck?
- Who helped Tommy find his red truck?
- How would you help a friend who lost their favorite toy?
- Where did they find the red truck?
- Who hid the red truck?
- Who was in Tommy's family?

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.

- **favorite:** likes best
- **hauled:** carried something
- **jeep:** a kind of car
- **shed:** small building outside

- **shrug:** raise and drop your shoulders
- **trikes:** a bike with three wheels
- **trunk:** big travelling box
- **underneath:** below another thing
- **whoa:** stop!

This book provides a way to talk to children about misplacing things, being upset and how to deal with emotions.
Engage Preschoolers in Early Literacy Book Extension Activities
Using Where’s my T-R-U-C-K?

- Collect Hot Wheels cars and tape a letter on the top of each car. On a sheet of paper, draw a parking lot. Ask the children to “park” cars spelling their names. You can write their names on the parking spots if they are just learning their names. You can also have them match the lower and upper case letters by writing the lower case letters on the parking spots.

- Gather some toys. Make a group with three similar toys and one that is different. Ask the children which one is different. Discuss how it is different from the other three.

- Play “Where’s My Truck?” Collect 26 opaque/colored cups, big enough to hide a small toy truck. Write the letters of the alphabet on post-its and stick them on the cups. Hide the truck under one of the cups. Tell the children “The truck is under the letter __.” Have the children look at the letters and lift up the correct cup. If they lift the wrong cup, you can tell them: “That is the letter __. Try again.” You can differentiate the activity by writing lower case letters or sounding out the letters.

Sing Songs and Chant Rhymes About Toys

My Teddy Bear
My teddy bear has two eyes, two eyes, two eyes.
My teddy bear has two eyes.
I love my teddy bear!
Continue using other body parts.

A Little Balloon
I had a little balloon, (make a circle with hands) That I hugged tight to me. (hug self tight)
There was a great big BANG! (clap hands loudly)
No more balloon for me! (shrug your shoulders with palms facing up)
But if I had this many more, (hold up five fingers) I wouldn’t hold them tight. (shake head)
I’d just hold the strings, (pretend to hold balloon) And fly them like a kite. (look up)

Jack-in-the-Box
My Jack-in-the-Box jumps up like this, (jump up and down) He makes me laugh as he waggles his head, (laugh and waggle your head) Then I gently press him down again, (pretend to press something down) Saying Jack-in-the-Box you must go to bed. (shake your finger)

Where’s My Truck?
A-B-CDE, I lost my red truck, poor me.
F-G-HIJ, Maybe someone put it away.
K-L-MNO, I wonder how far my truck could go.
P-Q-RST, Isn’t there someone who’ll help me?
U-V-WXY, I think I’ll sit right here and cry.
Z-Z-ZZZ, Hooray! I found it! Let’s go play!

Let’s Count the Balls
A little ball, (clasp hands) A bigger ball, (hands apart) A great big ball I see! (big arc) Now let’s count the balls ... One. Two. Three!

You Are My Teddy Bear
(Tune: “You Are My Sunshine”) You are my teddy bear, My only teddy bear. You make me smile, You are my friend. You’ll never know, How much I love you. I’m so glad, You’re my teddy bear.