

Dear Caregivers:

Today we used some of these books, fingerplays, and other materials in our storytime. Please continue helping your child develop by sharing these at home!



# AUTHORS: DONALD CREWS

## LETTER OF THE DAY

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## BOOKS TO SHARE

*Freight Train*  
by Donald Crews

*Ten Black Dots*  
by Donald Crews

*Night At The Fair*  
by Donald Crews

## ASL SIGN OF THE DAY "Book"



Hands begin flat, touching each other. Then, open them up like opening a book.

## "Read"



The sign for "read" uses the tips of your index and middle fingers as if they were eyeballs. The non-dominant flat hand functions as the "page" from which you are reading.

## FUN WITH FINGERPLAYS AND SONGS

### The Wheels on the Train [Tune: "The Wheels on the Bus"]

The wheels on the train go round and round,  
Round and round, round and round.  
The wheels on the train go round and round,  
All through the town.

[Verses: engine goes 'puff, puff, puff'; bell goes 'ding, dong, ding'; whistle goes 'whoop whoop whoop']

### Watching Traffic [Tune: "Are You Sleeping?"]

See the trucks go, see the trucks go  
Down the street, down the street.  
Gas and oil and milk trucks,  
Mail and trash and dump trucks,  
On their way, on their way.

### Make a Circle [action rhyme] [Tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"]

[stand together in a circle]

Come on, all join hands,  
Make a circle round.  
Circle left, circle right, [turn to the left, turn to the right]  
Turning all around.  
Coins, wheels, buttons and rings,  
All are circles round.  
Everywhere you go today,  
Circles can be found.

## If You're Happy and You Know It, Read a Book!

If you're happy and you know it read a book,  
read a book!

If you're happy and you know and you really  
want to show it,

If you're happy and you know it read a book,  
read a book!

## The More We Get/Read Together

The more we get together, together, together

The more we get together

The happier we'll be

For your friends are my friends  
and my friends are your friends

The more we get together

The happier we'll be

The more we read together, together, together

the more we read together

the happier we'll be.

Read big books and small books

Read short books and tall books

The more we read together

the happier we'll be.

## Read, Read, Read a Book

**[Tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"]**

Read, read, read a book,

Travel anywhere,

Worldwide, you decide,

A book will take you there.

Read, read, read a book,

Beginning to the end,

What a way to spend the day,

A book's a special friend!

## "These Are My Glasses" by The Laurie Berkner Band (2000)

# WHAT IS AN AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR STUDY?



Author/Illustrator Studies for very young children don't have to be complicated! Simply provide your child(ren) with a selection of books by the same creator and begin exploring them together.

Begin by pointing out the author and illustrator's name(s) on the front cover of each book and helping the child to understand that there are real people who write the words and who create the pictures for books. This seems basic, but it actually supports an important pre-reading skill: **developing concepts of print** (which is a fancy term for knowing how books work and what components -- like a cover, title page, endpapers, etc. -- make up a book).

What's more, especially when studying Black creators like Donald Crews, you are helping your child(ren) to **conceptualize and internalize the diversity of the world around them**, to see themselves and others reflected in the world of books.

When comparing books with *illustrations* by the same creator, you're developing your child(ren)'s **visual literacy**. Ask open-ended questions to guide this process such as:

- How can you tell that the same person drew both these pictures?
- What tools do you think the illustrator used to make these pictures? The computer? Crayons? Paints? How can you tell?
- Can you draw a picture in the same style as this illustrator?

For more information on author studies, and tips and tricks for doing an author study with your child(ren), download Reading Rocket's Author Study Toolkit at:

[https://www.readingrockets.org/content/pdfs/authortoolkit\\_rr.pdf](https://www.readingrockets.org/content/pdfs/authortoolkit_rr.pdf)

Donald Crews was born in Newark, New Jersey, in 1938. This urban setting can be seen as an influence in most of his work. During his childhood summers, however, he would travel to rural Florida to visit his grandmother -- an experience that inspired his picture books, *Bigmama's* and *Shortcut*.

Crews has many transportation-themed books, and his art style tends to the modern -- with bright colors, sharp lines, and solid shapes.

Donald Crews has yet to win Caldecott Award (the annual award for the "most distinguished American picture book for children"). He did win a Caldecott Honor for two of his books: *Freight Train* and *Truck*. Crews also received the Children's Literature Legacy Award in 2015, which is the award for creators who make a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children through books that demonstrate integrity and respect for all children's lives and experiences.