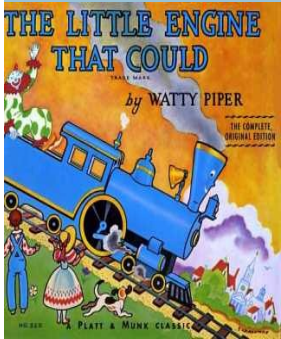


# Beyond the Book...



**Title:** The Little Engine That Could

**Author:** Watty Piper

**Summary:** This book is about a train that breaks down. It has to deliver toys to boys and girls on the other side of the mountain. A little blue engine happens by and decides to try and help the big red engine over the mountain by pulling it over. It doesn't believe it can pull it initially but with determination it overcomes its obstacles as it slowly pulls the toys and animals to the other side.



## **Before Reading...**

- If child is infant or toddler: Let the child hold the book. Talk about the front and the back of the book. Point out the pictures on the front and talk with your child about them. Take a "picture walk" through the book – as you turn the pages talk about what is happening in the pictures.
- If child is preschooler: Talk with your child about riding a train, especially if s/he has had this experience. Ask if s/he likes to get toys and talk about the toys on the train. Talk about words in the book that may be new to your child: engine, hitched, etc.

## **During Reading...**

If child is infant or toddler: As you read, point out the pictures that show what is happening. Encourage your child to talk or make sounds as s/he can.

If child is preschooler: As you read the story ask your child questions about what is happening in the book. Throughout you may ask for both verbal and non-verbal responses.

## **After Reading...**

- Create trains out of construction paper and any other art supplies of the child's choice. - Make train whistles out of empty plastic soda bottles. The child can decorate the bottle however s/he wishes with stickers or glue on paper etc. To make the whistle sound, the child can blow across the bottle's opening.
- Talk to the child about the little blue engine. Emphasize the blue engine's positive attitude. Walk around the room playing like a train saying "Choo-choo! I think I can, I think I can..."
- For three and four year olds, make a train from rectangles (the number of cars depends on the number of letters in your child's name) and write one letter of their name on each car.

For additional activities visit [www.uwchatt.org](http://www.uwchatt.org) or call 423.752.0300.

*These activities provided by United Way's Project Ready for School initiative and created by students at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.*