Children need to hear and say lots of words before entering Kindergarten. Having your child help read stories by looking at the pictures is one way of helping them. C.A.R. is simple conversation/story starter you can use with your child to help them tell the story.

Below is an example of how to use C.A.R. with your Imagination Library book, “Truck Stop.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C- Comment and Wait (count to 5)</th>
<th>Adult: I think I see Green Gus on the side of the road.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Make a comment about what you see on the page.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A- Ask questions and Wait (count to 5)</td>
<td>Adult: What do you think he is doing on the side of the road?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Ask questions that do not have a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ or one word answer to them.</td>
<td>Child: His truck broke down and is not working.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R- Respond by adding a little more to the child’s response.</td>
<td>Adult: Yes, I think the little boy will try to get help for Green Gus.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C.A.R. is taken from the Language is the Key Curriculum written by Washington Learning Systems
**Related Activities**

Help your child make a steering wheel using a black paper plate and construction paper. Let them pretend to drive their truck outside.

Stop by a local diner and ask to visit behind the counter. Talk to the local truck drivers that are eating at the diner about their jobs and the trucks they drive.

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**Building Vocabulary**

Your child should be exposed to 32 million words by the time they turn three years old. Introducing specific words and names of things such as “18-wheeler, milk tank, horse trailer and tow truck,” will help boost your child’s vocabulary. – New York Times

Other tips for increasing vocabulary include:

- Create flashcards with pictures of objects your child is familiar with and have them tell you the name of the object as quickly as possible
- Read a variety of books and point out the words that correlate to the pictures as you are reading

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**Song: My Big Truck**

Tune: The Wheels on the Bus

My big truck is coming fast, coming fast,

My big truck is coming fast,

Oh, hear it’s horn! (beep!beep!)

Watch out for its big round wheels, big round wheels, big round wheels,

Oh, hear its horn beep!

**Other verses:**

My big truck can carry cans
My big truck can make cement
My big truck can carry airplanes
My big truck has a bed inside

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**Related books you can check out at your local library**

**Duck in the Truck**
By: Jez Alborough

**Magic Train Ride**
By: Sally Crabtree

**Wheel Away**
By: Dayle Ann Dodds

**Big Trucks and Little Trucks**
By: Jan Carr