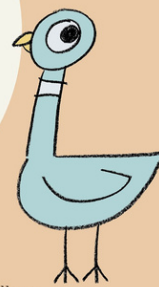


Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus

by Mo Willems

Don't
Let the
Pigeon
Drive
the
Bus!



words and pictures by mo willems

Before Reading: Get Ready

Tell your child what you see on the cover of the book. Then, ask your child what they see on the cover. Read the book's title, author, and illustrator to your child.

Activate comprehension and set a purpose for reading. Today, we are going to read a funny book about a pigeon who wants to drive a bus! This book is pretend. It is a fantasy book. It could not really happen. In this book, the pigeon is going to try to convince us that he should drive the bus! He is going to give us lots of reasons that he should drive the bus! But what are we going to say? That's right! We are going to say, "NO!" We know that it would not be safe for a pigeon to drive the bus.

Are you ready to help me read? (Note: Encourage your child to "pretend read" the book with you! "Pretend reading" is the first stage of reading and builds your child's language development and early reading skills!).

During Reading: Read Together

Sit side-by-side to share the book, or have your child sit on your lap while you read to them.

Read the book in an excited voice and encourage your child to "read" with you. Touch under each word as you read aloud to help your child match spoken words with print. If your child comments on a page or asks questions about the book, please pause and briefly discuss before returning to reading to help your child engage in the reading.

- **After reading the first two pages of the book,** say to your child, "OK! The bus driver does not want us to let the pigeon drive the bus! Can we stop the pigeon from driving the bus? We have to tell the pigeon that he cannot drive it!"
- **As you are reading,** encourage your child to "talk back" to the book and to tell the pigeon, "no" or "you can't drive the bus."

- **On the pages with pictures and no words**, have your child tell you what is happening. If your child has difficulty doing so, you tell your child what you think is happening on those pages.
- **On the last four pages of the book**, ask your child what they think the pigeon is going to try to do now (e.g., drive a truck!).

After Reading: Discuss and Extend

Ask your child whether they liked the book. Ask your child whether they want you to read the book with them again! Encourage your child to “read” the book with you when you read it again.

After reading the book, you and your child could:

- If your child enjoyed this book, go to the library to find other books by Mo Willems.
- Have your child tell you all of the reasons a pigeon should not drive a bus. Write down what your child says, and then read those reasons together.
- Show your child the difference between pages with no words and pages with words on them. Explain that we only read words, but that we can use the pictures to help us think about what is happening in the story, too.

NOTE: Videos for parents can be accessed on the LEAP website: <https://leap.cehd.gmu.edu/parent-and-family-resources/>