

On and Off the Bus

You need a play bus – that is, an old box, or a bus created out of cardboard and Sellotape and red paint or felt-tips. The bus can be as elaborate and realistic or as basic as you like! You also need passengers. These can be tiny soft toys or plastic animals or people; they could be Lego™ or Duplo™ people.

How to play

- Start the bus with 6, 10 or 12 passengers as appropriate for your child.
- Make bus driving noises and create the sense of the bus driving from one 'stop' to another. Allow the bus to visit five stops.
- Follow the schedule below.
- At each stop ...
 - BEFORE taking the people off, ask how many will be left.
 - BEFORE letting the people get on, ask how many will be on the bus when it sets off again.

2 people get off	1 person gets off	1 person gets off	2 people get off	3 people get off
1 person gets on	3 people get on	2 people get on	3 people get on	1 person gets on

- Show the passengers on fingers. Hold up six fingers, then, as 2 people are getting off, fold down 2 of the fingers. How many are left? Now hold up an extra finger to show a person getting on. How many now?
- You can record the stops as sums. But if this spoils the activity or is stressful, don't do it. Just do the sums orally by saying them.

$$\text{Stop} \quad 6 - 2 = \quad 4 + 1 =$$

- Visit all the stops, doing the sums as you go.
- If the child has enjoyed it, play again!