Congratulations! By checking out and using this backpack from Capital Area District Libraries, you are helping your child develop important literacy skills. Although these skills are very important, they can also be fun to learn.

In fact, every time you use one of these five simple practices with your child, you are helping him or her develop into a lifelong learner: reading, writing, talking, singing and playing.

Here are some ideas for using the items in this backpack:

- Read the books together, pointing out new words as you go along.
- Write some of the letters or words you see in the book.
- Talk with your child about the items in the kit. Ask what he or she thinks the stories might be about.
- Listen to the music on the CD or watch the DVD together. Play with the toys included in the backpack.
- After finishing one of the stories, imagine what might happen next.

Read • Write • Talk • Sing • Play

This tip sheet stays with the backpack. For a copy of your own, visit any CADL branch or cadl.org/raisingreaders.
COMMUNITY HELPERS
BACKPACK ACTIVITIES

I went riding in my car
I went riding in my car, 
In my car, in my car, 
I went riding in my car 
And I hit a BUMP!

I went riding in my truck, 
In my truck, in my truck, 
I went riding in my truck 
I drove through sloppy MUD!

I went riding in my bus, 
In my bus, in my bus, 
I went riding in my bus 
The wheels went ‘ROUND and ROUND!

I took a drive in my race car, 
My race car, my race car 
I took a drive in my race car 
I went very FAST!

I rode in a donkey cart, 
Donkey cart, donkey cart 
I rode in a donkey cart 
I went very SLOW!

I went out in my garbage truck, 
Garbage truck, garbage truck 
I went out in my garbage truck 
I picked some garbage UP!

I got into my police car, 
Police car, police car 
I got into my police car 
I made the siren HOWL!

I went out in my fire truck, 
Fire truck, fire truck 
I went out in my fire truck 
I put the fire OUT!

Here are ten brave smokejumpers

Here are ten brave smokejumpers,
 flying in a plane

They jump out with their parachutes,
 just the way they trained.

Here they are, all in a line,
 to fight the smoky fire.

With axes, saws, and shovels,
 they work until they’re tired.

They have a drink and start back up,
 right in line with their friends.

And then the fire is all put out. 
The trees are safe again!