

Down by the Station

American
Game: DMS

Guitar: Capo 3

Voice

The musical score is written for voice and guitar. It consists of three staves of music in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: F (D) for the first staff, C7(A7) for the second staff, and F (D) for the third staff. The lyrics are: 'Down by the sta - tion ear - ly in the morn - ing, see the lit - tle puf - fer-bil - lies all ____ in a row. See the en - gine dri - ver pull the lit - tle throt - tle. Chug, chug, poof, poof! Off we go!'.

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It takes a while to learn all the words to this song, so I like to have a couple of different movement ideas for it. Here are my favorites.

1) You gotta go with the **train** idea! Let the students be the train whistles and engineers ("All aboard!") for an introduction. And if behavior is acceptable, an actual train of children moving through the space is very fun.

2) **Steady beat.** As you're singing the song, have students imitate you as you keep the steady beat in different places on your body. (I recommend switching locations every 8 beats.) [Example: Tap your head for 8 beats, flap your wings for 8 beats, jump in place for 8 beats, wave good-bye for 8 beats.]

- Choose 4 students to be the leaders, and place them in a line facing their classmates. (So that the class will be "reading" from their left to their right.)
- Ask each leader to show an interesting way to keep the steady beat; perform each, in order, for 8 beats. (Their ideas will be more interesting *and tiring* than mine!)
- The teacher demonstrates the whole pattern.
- Everyone sings the song with the steady beat game.
- The leaders each choose a new person (who hasn't yet had a turn) to become a new leader.