

DJ's BUSY DAY

Illustrated by Nichole Wong Forti

 SCHOLASTIC

DJ's BUSY DAY



Illustrated by
Nichole Wong Forti

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

Every book, song, word, and cuddle you share with your children builds their brains and prepares them for success in school and in life!

This book is full of fun ideas for talking, reading, and singing with your children every day. Enjoy using them at home, out and about, and throughout your own busy day!

Sincerely,

Your Friends at *Too Small to Fail*

P.S. For more ideas, visit **TalkingIsTeaching.org**.

SCHOLASTIC INC.

No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission of the publisher. For information regarding permission, write to the Clinton Foundation, 1633 Broadway 5th Floor, New York, NY 10019. Copyright © 2019 by the Clinton Foundation through its early childhood initiative, Too Small To Fail. All rights reserved. Published by Scholastic Inc., 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012, by arrangement with the Clinton Foundation. Printed in the U.S.A. ISBN-13: 978-1-338-57860-7 • ISBN-10: 1-338-57860-X • SCHOLASTIC and associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc. Other company names, brand names, and product names are the property and/or trademarks of their respective owners.

Scholastic does not endorse any product or business entity mentioned herein. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 40 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19

Scholastic Inc., 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012

I hear my mommy singing
in her good morning way:
“Wakey-wakey, sleepy one,
It’s time to start the day...
But first a hug—hooray!”



TALK TIP: Start your day with a hug and a song. This is a great bonding moment, and you’re boosting your child’s language skills!

“YES! Start with a
hug!”
I say.



My daddy holds two shirts up. "Let's pick one—green or blue?"



"Green,"
I say.



"Yes!
Green
like broccoli, too."

"Broccoli
green
looks good on you."



During breakfast, Mommy says, "Show me something round."



"Pancakes...plate...the table...
Nia's green peas on the ground."

"One, two, three, four great round things that you found!"

TALK TIP: Count your food and talk about the shapes you see. Meals are perfect for sharing early math and fun conversations.

I want to go to Nana's, but this **rain** just won't stop!



“While we wait, let’s play a game—
find words that sound like **plop**.”



“Yay! It stopped!”

TALK TIP: Make rhyming words into a game! It’s a fun way to spend time together and build vocabulary.

Riding on the bus, we spy lots of different things:

- something **yummy**,
- something **loud**,
- something small with **wings**,
- and something that **ring-rings**.

TALK TIP: While you're out, play "I Spy." With little ones, name and describe the things you see with colors, shapes, and sizes. With older ones, take turns guessing what you each see.



Ring!



We see Nana at the **stop**.
She gives Nia a hug.



TALK TIP: Your love, warmth, and attention help children feel safe and secure, which in turn builds self-confidence.

I feel a little **jealous**, so
I frown, and huff, and shrug.

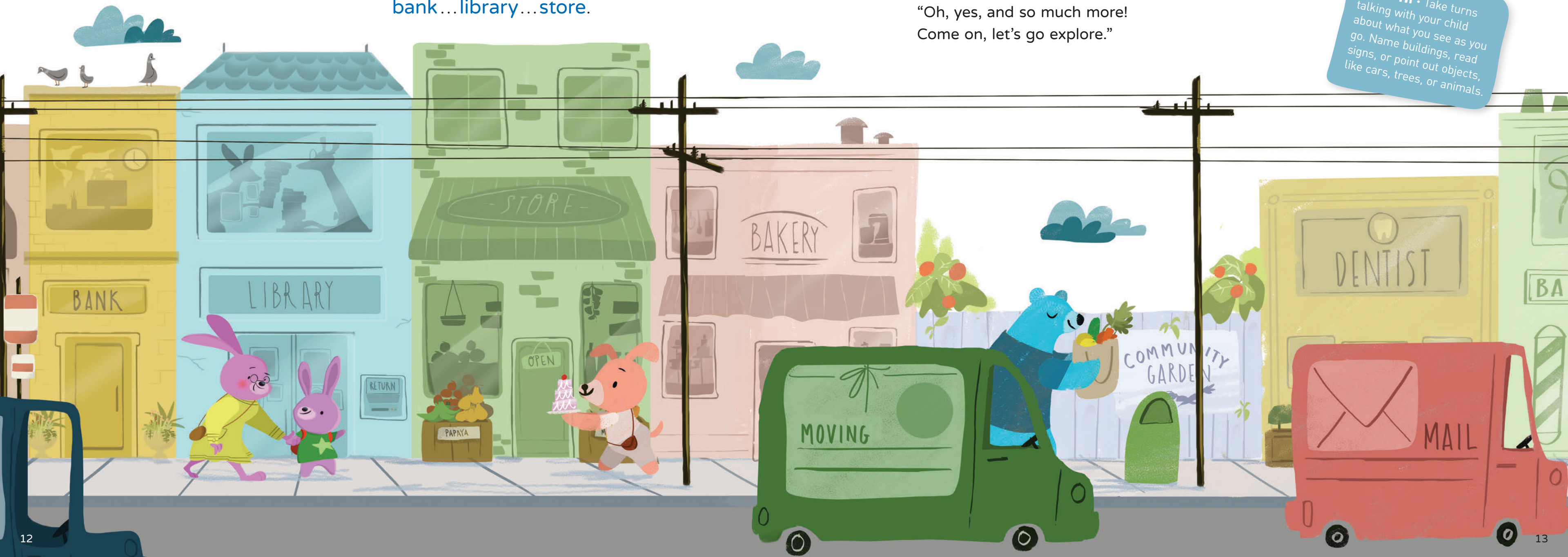
“My
**snuggle
bug**”



We walk and name the buildings:
bank...**library**...**store**.

“Nana, are there **berries** there?”
“Oh, yes, and so much more!
Come on, let’s go explore.”

TALK TIP: Take turns talking with your child about what you see as you go. Name buildings, read signs, or point out objects, like cars, trees, or animals.



Strolling through the corner store,
we name the things we see:

broccoli



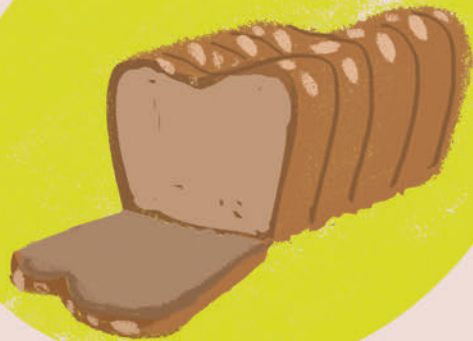
apples



milk



bread



cheese



**baby
wipes**



**green
peas**



and **strawberries** for me.

Now we've been here forever!
I drop and start to cry.



TALK TIP: Hug, tell a story,
or sing a song if your child is
feeling upset. Little ones need
guidance and support when
tired, angry, or frustrated.

“Are you feeling tired? Sad?”
My mommy lifts me high
and hugs my tears goodbye.

At Nana's, we have **dinner**;
see Dad's **old pictures**, too.
Then Nana tells us **stories**
of things our Dad used to do.

"I'm
back!"

"We're talking about **you**."

Driving home, we share our day,
the things we all have done.

"And
what did you do,
son?"

Daddy worked hard.
Mom did, too!

"Oh, I had so much
fun!"

TALK TIP: Talk with your child
about his or her day. Ask questions
like: How did you feel? What was
your favorite part? What are you
looking forward to doing tomorrow?

While Daddy changes Nia,
my job is “Peek-a-Boo.”



We both sing her the alphabet
so she can learn it, too.
It's our favorite thing to do.

TALK TIP: Make faces for your child to show different emotions—happy, sad, surprised, excited—as you say them aloud. Diaper time is a perfect time to talk, sing, and giggle together!

At last, I'm feeling tired. It's time to go to bed.
My family sings a lullaby, and when my books are read I hear,



Oh, what a busy day we've had, my busy family.
Reading, talking, singing, too—
we love to do all three!

TALK TIP: Talking, reading, singing, and cuddling are great ways to bond with your child and build a loving relationship.

Thank you for reading DJ's story!

Now that you're done, here are some tips to make small moments big with your children every day!



Tips for infants

Your touch and voice help your baby learn. **Listen to the sounds your baby makes and repeat them.** Hold your baby's hand gently, and when he or she coos, coo back.

As you feed your baby, **use words to describe what foods taste, feel, and look like.** "Yogurt is smooth and creamy." "This yellow banana tastes sweet!"

Cuddle with your baby as you share a book. Point to the book's pictures: "Look, the train goes choo-choo!" Describing what you see builds language.

Hold your baby close during bedtime and sing. Singing the same song again and again can help your baby feel calm and safe.

Tips for toddlers



Play games during bath time to help your child learn new words. Take turns dropping toys in the water. Say, "Watch it sink!" or "It floats!"

Sing together during everyday activities like driving or doing laundry. Children enjoy simple and repetitive songs like "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" and "The Wheels on the Bus."

Encourage a love of books in your child by reading together every day. Children love to read the same books over and over again.

As you read together, point to pictures, letters, and numbers. **Ask open-ended questions.** "What do you see? How does he feel? What would you do if you were her?"