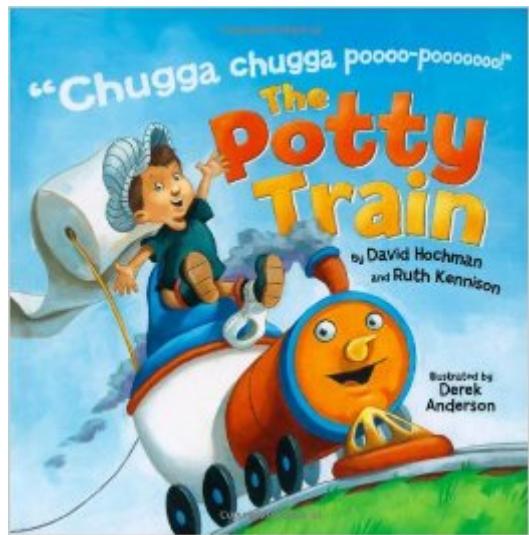


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The Potty Train



Synopsis

The Potty Train is coming! All aboard! Time to say good-bye to diapers and take the journey to Underpants Station. Are you ready? Let's chug away on the Potty Train!

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (January 8, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416928332

ISBN-13: 978-1416928331

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (274 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,442 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Trains #9 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Toilet Training #19 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences

Age Range: 1 - 4 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

Customer Reviews

I should start by saying my daughter loves this book. But it isn't helping her understand a damn thing about the potty, and in fact seems to be setting up rather bizarre expectations about what is possible and achievable on the toilet. Two main problems:1) First of all, the text really doesn't make any sense. I don't mean to get all English-major on it, but the metaphors are wholly inconsistent. Kids are literalists. This book is a poorly-conceived metaphor. Not a good combo. Climb aboard the potty train = sit on the potty, right? So what do we make of the fact that "soon you'll be riding the potty train all night"? Given the way the metaphor has been set up, this would imply that soon, the child to whom the book is addressed will be sitting all night on the toilet. I find that a worrisome threat rather than something to look forward to. If you ride the potty train, you will be stricken with dysentery?2) The pictures are as nonsensical as the text. When the child poops ("chugga-chugga Poo poo" --this is, apparently, the supreme goal of sitting on the potty), they are to wash hands. Great. But the picture is of the child being sprayed with water, and his companions, an elephant and a giraffe, are being sprayed with water. The giraffe is being sprayed in the face. What did the giraffe

do to require a face wash? The accompanying text reads "it feels good to be clean and dry." Dry? So we soak ourselves? Other bizarre and alarming pictures include that accompanying the text "the potty train keeps chugging along", illustrated by the train on a track leading into what appears to be a giant twisty sewer pipe. The boy on the potty looks thrilled, but the giraffe looks suitably alarmed. I try to skip over this one so my child doesn't dwell on the looming dark tunnel of waste into which her potty training experience will inevitably lead her. Today I tried to explain the metaphor to my child. "You're sitting on the potty train." To which she replied, with a wistful note in her voice, "no. I'm just sitting on the potty." Oh, the disappointment. Seriously. Avoid this book. If your child decides to like it and think about it, it may just derail your "potty train." There are better ones out there.

Our son loves trains, and we bought a couple potty books to help him begin to understand about using the potty. He really enjoyed this one and wanted to read it over and over. The pictures are lovely, but the content of the book is entirely metaphorical - it's all about a boy learning to "ride the potty train", with little if any content about how to actually use a potty. When it came time to wean him off of diapers, our son was confused and a little scared - he was afraid that "the potty train will go too fast.". We had to explain that it's not really a train, and won't move. So although it gets a couple stars for creativity and good pictures, it just was not a helpful to us for actual potty training.

I purchased this book for our 2-year-old son, thinking that since he loves trains he'd love this book--and it would help us teach him about his upcoming potty training events. Wrong. It's way too obscure for a youngster to understand the connections. The content is very weak and does not at all describe the process of learning to use the potty. I also purchased *My Big Boy Potty* at the same time, and that book is excellent. I'd highly recommend that one, because it has clear, simple instructions a young child can understand. Our little guy is really enjoying that book and is starting to show signs that he understands what we're starting to talk to him about.

Sure, it doesn't really make a lot of sense. In fact, there isn't all that much text in the whole book - but I view this as a good thing because I can fill in the silence with my own narrative while my son examines the pictures. And for a kid who adores trains this will definitely capture their attention. It won't teach them anything about the potty, but my experience thus far is that even the boring "Hi my name is Henry and I wear diapers" books don't teach my son anything about the potty either because he gets bored with it less than 1/2 the way through. It might be my approach to potty training which is more "you can lead a horse to water..." so my goal is more to get him excited about

the potty so he'll want to do it sooner. Other potty books don't do anything any normal parent wouldn't already do in their day to day convo with their toddler "we need to change your diaper but once you can use the potty you won't need these..." So I say even if this doesn't 'teach' it's still an awesome book because it still provides the structure for the parent to teach.

I got this book because my son LOVES trains and we were working on potty training. Perfect right? No. There were a lot of metaphors that went right over my son's head. Yeah, the pictures are fun but I had to narrate the whole story so he would get what was going on. There were things like "Don't worry if you get off track and can't make it in time" with a picture of the giraffe running to catch up to the train and "On the potty train, leaks happen and you can get all wet" with a picture of rain falling on everyone while on the train. Too vague for a three year old boy. It was a good idea, obviously others liked it, just not me!

My toddler is into trains. And this book helped make potty training fun and relatable. When he is being his stubborn-2-yr-old-self, we say the book's tag line "Chugga Chugga Poo Poo", he instantly connects POTTY training with the book and goes to the toilet. He is into his 2nd week of potty training and it has been 3 days since with no accident! I believe this helped him made the connection. This is a really great book for bed time reading too.

This book looked really cute and a fun way to talk about potty training with your child. When we got it and first read it, it was a very cute story with great pictures! My son loves it! Especially when I make the train noises! It's even better than what I thought it would be!

A cute story, but I have to add quite a bit of narration to it so that it makes sense to my potty-training aged child. There almost are not enough words, or maybe the words used in this story aren't specific enough. But my child enjoys the book, regardless of whether or not he gets the point!

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