

First
MARTA
Bus Trip
12/14/15



First MARTA Bus Trip - The First of Many! 12/14/2015

Today five children, Lola, Wren, Eleanor, Helena, & Violet took a southbound ride on MARTA Route #4, the line that runs right along The Nest. This was the second MARTA trip Nesters embarked on, with a group having taken the inaugural trip on a train last week. We are beginning to form a relationship with MARTA so that we can utilize & understand Atlanta to the fullest.

The children left the school in light rain with an abundance of umbrellas (which almost upstaged the bus itself!) to wait for the bus right outside our school at the corner of the empty lot. While waiting, we sang “Wheels on the Bus” & talked about how the bus knows to stop for us by observing the tricolor MARTA sign post. As we saw the bus coming, the children jumped up & down with excitement. Every child was a delightfully respectful & safe rider.

As this is just the beginning of our MARTA adventures, Kalei wanted to use this first ride as an opportunity to observe & listen to the children. What do they already know about transportation, busses, trains? What do they know about Atlanta? What do they want to know? Here are some of her initial observations:

- The children were particularly interested in the railroad tracks we crossed.
- “Why are we stopping” ... understanding that buses must follow the same traffic laws as cars, but also stop to pick up passengers. We began to take note of when we saw MARTA signs at stops.
- “We’re turning, whoa!” “Hold on tight!” “It’s SO fast, faster than a car!” ... turns & movement feel different than when in a car.
- Violet had an interest in road names & frequently asked what the street was when we turned.
- “We’re in a neighborhood! These are our neighbors.” ... recognizing environmental clues about communities (some areas are more residential vs. commercial) ... when we were in neighborhoods, Wren asked if we were close to “cool,” demonstrating her understanding that the Nest is nestled into a neighborhood much like those we explored.
- “Where are we? Let’s see on the map.” ... Because we went south of the school, there were not many recognizable landmarks for the children so Kalei used MARTA’s app to chart the journey. Violet asked to see the map every few blocks during the latter half of the trip. We could easily see where our bus is & used the zoom function to see where we were in relation to familiar locations, such as parks.

