

The  
Early Years Count  
**Literacy**  
Connection



**Where Do  
Diggers Sleep at  
Night?**

Written by Brianna Caplan  
Sayers and illustrated by  
Christian Slade

*Infant/Toddler edition*

**Overview of Book**

Where DO trucks go at night? Are they treated as if they are children by the “older and bigger” trucks? Do they have “good night routines” like you?

Genre: Picture book

**Vocabulary**

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Where Do Diggers Sleep at Night?* to introduce in your room:

truck types/names

beacon

beneath

destination

cozy

Each time you read the book, highlight 2 or 3 words.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or refer to the illustrations to help children understand each word's meaning.

Use the new words throughout the day, reminding children, “That’s a word from our story!”

**Connecting with  
HighScope Curriculum**

COR Advantage 1.5

Language, Literacy  
and Communication  
Item L  
(*Speaking*)

Creative Arts Item AA  
(*Pretend play*)

Science and  
Technology Item BB  
(*Observing and  
classifying*)

Social Studies  
Item FF (*Knowledge of  
self and others*)

**Reading Tips**

Ask the children if trucks get tucked in bed. Then wonder, “Do trucks have mommies and daddies?” Read each part and ask, “Does that sound like you? Are you like (this truck)?” Each section ends in a question. Offer time for the children to respond. Ask, “What do you think?” Linger on any page the children like. Ask which truck they might pretend to be at rest time!

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. During each reading the adult can introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story “come alive.”

### **Throughout the Routine**

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Sort items by small, medium and large at **Small Group Time**.

Pretend to be the different trucks at **Large Group Time**. Encourage movements and sound effects.

Have children describe their bedtime routine at **Greeting Time**.

Bring trucks along at **Outside Time**.

### **Around the Room**

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Get duplicate trucks and different types of trucks in a range of sizes to add to the **Block Area**.

Add other Imagination Library books with trucks in them to the **Book Area**. Include Truck Stop by Anne Rockwell and With Any Luck I'll Drive a Truck by David Friend.

Have construction vehicles in the **Sand and Water Area**.

### **Open-ended Questions**

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These "wondering aloud" questions support children's developing focus and attention as they encourage young children's capacity to make connections and see possibilities.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Where Do Diggers Sleep at Night?*:

*How do you get ready for bed?*

*What is your favorite truck in the story? Why?*

*What would you ask your favorite truck?*

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

website—  
[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

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@famconnsjc

phone—  
574-237-9740

### **@ Home**

Since many children in our county will have this book at home, use it to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Where Do Diggers Sleep at Night?* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

This is a wonderful book to enjoy as part of the bedtime routine. As you read this story with your child, give time to look at the details in the pictures. Ask questions like, "Why are the cars so sleepy? What have they done all day?" Listen as your child talks about the cars' day. Each page has the potential for an additional little story by your child. When the "grown up trucks" in the book hug or sing, do this with your child. Let your child show you their favorite parts and talk about whatever that page is. Keep the book nearby to read again and again at bedtime.