

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



Good Night Gorilla

Written and Illustrated by
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Infant/Toddler edition
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Overview of Book

Goodnight, Gorilla is a picture book with very few words, but lots of fun. The zookeeper is saying goodnight to all the animals, but there is a problem. Gorilla has taken his keys. Every time the zookeeper passes an animal and says "Goodnight," Gorilla is right behind him opening up the cages. When the zookeeper heads home, a whole line of animals are secretly following him. Where will they all end up? What will happen next?

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *Good Night Gorilla* to introduce in your classroom:

hat	keys
pocket	banana
zoo	zookeeper
daytime	nighttime
flashlight	

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

Social and Emotional
Development Item D
(Emotions)

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item Q
(Book enjoyment and
knowledge)

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item L
(Speaking)

Reading Tips

As you examine the front cover of the book, explain to the children that *Good Night, Gorilla* is a picture book. You might say "We can tell what is happening in the story by looking at the pictures. There are a lot of things to see in pictures." Start a conversation by asking, "What do you see?"

Give plenty of time for children to look at the pictures and describe what they see. Draw special attention to the mouse and the banana as they show up several times throughout the story.

Before turning each page, summarize what the children have seen. You also may want to comment on objects the children overlook or may not be familiar with.

Throughout the Routine

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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.

During **transition** ask the children to move like their favorite animal from the story.

For **group time** give children flashlights, turn the lights off and pretend to be the zookeeper locking up all the animals before bedtime.

At **greeting time** ask the children to greet each other with their favorite zoo animal sound.

Around the Room

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

Talk about how the animals you might have in your classroom are alike or different from the animals in the story.

Add a gorilla and other story animals to the **block area**.

Place flashlights in the **house area** and keys and pipe cleaners in the toy area for children to explore.

Put *Good Night, Gorilla* on display in the book area so the children can easily find it on their own.

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 *Good Night, Gorilla*:

- What do you see?
- What's happening?
- Where are they going?

Be sure to listen to and support the children's observations and add your own from time to time.

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

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
[@famconnsjc](https://www.facebook.com/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 *Good Night, Gorilla* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Our class has had so much fun exploring the book *Good Night, Gorilla!* This is a book where the pictures tell the story; so as you read this book at home with your child, take plenty of time on each page to notice what is happening. Some questions you might ask are "What do you see?" "What's happening?" or "Where are they going?"

Use this book as a springboard to talk about trips to the zoo your child may have made, look up pictures of zoo animals on the Internet, or possibly plan a trip to the zoo.