

# How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?

by Jane Yolen



- **Things to get ready:**

1. Try to memorize the poem described in “*Getting the children ready to listen,*” or have it available in a place where your hands can be free.
2. **Play Dough Dinosaurs-** Gather together the following ingredients. You might need to double or triple the recipe, depending on the size of your class. Use different colors so the children have choices. Choose a display area.

*Play Dough Recipe*

*1 cup salt*

*2 cups sifted flour*

*6 teaspoons alum*

*2 tablespoons salad oil*

*1 cup water*

*You will also need food coloring and plastic bags for storage.*

4. Look at the enclosed *Dinosaur Sandwiches* idea and decide if it is something you would like to do. If so, plan ahead for those ingredients, and perhaps invite the parents to join you.

- **Getting the children ready to listen:**

To get the children in the mood for this dinosaur story, use this poem. Have the children stand in a circle spread apart from each other. Tell them you will say the poem and do motions. They are to copy you. Use a slower and a big exaggerated voice to help the children hear each line and have time to respond to the actions. Say the poem a second time.

**Dinosaurs**

*by Diane Thom*

Dinosaurs

Lived long ago.

Some walked,

*(stomp in place)*

Some swam,

*(pretend to swim)*

Some flew, you know.

*(flap arms at sides)*

Some were big,

*(hold hand high)*

Some were small.

*(hold hand low)*

Some were gigantic-

*(stretch arms out wide)*

V-e-r-y tall!

*(stretch arms up high)*

- **Read-Aloud Guide**

BEFORE you read the book:

1. Ask your class how they say “goodnight” at bedtime. Call on several children to share.
2. Say, “We’re going to read a book about how *dinosaurs* say goodnight.”
3. Open the book and show the children the whole cover (front and back).  
Read the title, illustrator and the authors.
4. Ask the children what they see in the picture. Have a few children respond.
5. Show the title page and have the children describe what the *triceratops* is doing. (*taking a bath and getting ready for bed*)
6. Say, “Let’s see how dinosaurs say goodnight.”
7. Show the dedication page and say, “Here goes a dinosaur (*ankylosaurus* – **ang-kee-luh-sor-us**) yawning and carrying his ‘blankie’.”

DURING reading:

1. Read slowly and use your voice to show expression. This book rhymes and the way you say the words can help the children “hear” the rhyming words.
2. There are not many words on a page and you want the children to see some of the great details in the pictures. Point out some of them that you notice, or let them comment. (*each dinosaur’s name is somewhere in the picture*)

AFTER reading:

1. Ask the children, “How **do** dinosaurs say goodnight?” (*they give a big kiss, turn out the light, tuck in their tails, whisper “Goodnight,” a big hug and one last kiss*)
2. Ask the children to describe their favorite page and why they like it. The pages are not numbered so you will have to have them tell carefully so you can find them. It is fun for children to hear you tell your opinion too, so include your own.
3. Tell them you’re going to finish with another poem about dinosaurs, and each time the poem says, “Oh my!” they say it and put their hands up to their cheeks. (*demonstrate*)

### **A Dinosaur Came Into Town**

A dinosaur came into town. **Oh my!**  
He stomped and stomped and stomped around. **Oh my!**  
He ate a bush. He ate a tree. **Oh my!**  
And started looking right at me. **Oh my!**  
He lifted his head to the sky so blue. **Oh my!**  
And then he sneezed! *Ah Ah Ah Choo!* **Oh my!**  
He blew me far, far away. **Oh my!**  
But I like it here, so I think I'll stay. **Oh my!**

- **Extension Activity**

#### **Play Dough Dinosaurs**

Manipulating play dough is an excellent fine motor task, and a lot of fun for children. Show the children how to roll it, how to make balls, and how to attach one piece to another. Tell the children to create a dinosaur or any type of “monster” that they would like. As they are working, circulate among the children carrying a stack of 3 X 5 cards or small pieces of paper and a marker. Ask the child if they have a “name” for their creation. Mark it down on the card, along with the child’s name. As they finish, help the children put their creation and card on your display table. Add rocks, grass, twigs, etc. to make the dinosaur landscape complete. When you are back together again admiring your work, invite the children to suggest a name for the display. Make a sign with the name to hang above the display. Have the children invite their parents to see it when they visit.

- **Related Books**

#### **Ten Terrible Dinosaurs**

by Catherine Woolley

#### **Dinosaur Roar!**

by Paul Stickland

#### **ABC T-Rex**

by Bernard Most

#### **How Big Were The Dinosaurs**

by Bernard Most

#### **The Dinosaurs Are Back, And It's All Your Fault, Edward!**

by Wendy Hartmann