



Good Night Gorilla

By Peggy Rathman

Things to get ready:

1. Berry baskets or shoe boxes which can be turned on their side to build a zoo
2. Plastic zoo animals if available or stickers or pictures of zoo animals
3. Zoo animal cards to play the concentration game

Getting the children ready to listen:

Have children sit in a group in front of you. Be sure everyone can see the book. Begin with an opening finger play of your choice:

For Example:

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed (hold up 5 fingers and pretend they are jumping)

One fell off and bumped his head (rub head)

Mommy called the doctor and the doctor said, (pretend to use a phone)

“No more monkeys jumping on the bed!) (Wave your finger back and forth)

Repeat taking away one monkey each verse.

Read Aloud Guide

Before you read the book:

1. Ask the children if they have ever been to the zoo. Encourage the children to talk about their experiences.
2. Talk about the care of the zoo animals. Ask:
 - Who feeds and cleans up after the animals?
 - How would the animals get the food if they were in the wild instead of zoo cages?
3. Show the cover of the book and read the title. Also point out the author and the illustrator. Ask children to predict what they think this book will be about.

During reading:

1. Show the children that there are not many words on the page. The pictures tell the story.
2. Point to the pictures as you tell the story. Point to the words as you read them.
3. Have children join you in naming the animals as they join the group.

After reading:

1. Were you surprised by the ending? What do you think will happen next?
2. You may want to go back and have the children retell the story as they look at the pictures.
3. Have individual students stand up to represent each animal as they join the group.
4. Ask the children to count the total number of animals who left the zoo as you touch each child (animal) on the head.
5. You can ask one child(animal) at a time to be seated, each time counting the number left. This can be expanded with older children to show the concept of “take away”.

Follow-up Activity

Create a zoo:

1. Show the children how to use the berry baskets to make cages.
2. Show the children how to sort the plastic animals (or animal pictures or stickers) into the different cages.
3. Place the materials in a learning center that children can use for creative play.
4. Encourage the students to label the cages with 3x5 cards using invented spelling or you can spell it and they can write the letters.
5. As you observe, you may ask a child to count the number of animals in one of the cages. If this is difficult, show him/her how to take one animal out at a time to count them.

Animal Concentration:

1. Demonstrate to the class how to play Concentration with the animal cards.
2. Place these cards in the center so children can play the game during free play or center time.

Related books:

1, 2, 3 to the Zoo by Eric Carle

Color Zoo by Lois Ehlert

Curious George Visits the Zoo by Margaret Rey

Going to the Zoo by Tom Paxton

Put Me in the Zoo by Robert Lopshire