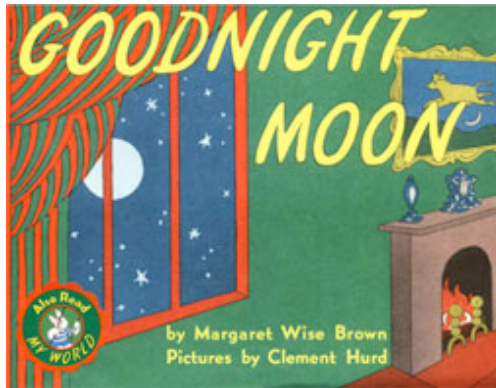


Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown



Parents are children's first and most important teachers. They need to read, write, talk and listen to their children to help them become literate. They also need to have fun, to enjoy their children and share their ideas with them. A pleasant and valuable activity parents and children can enjoy together is sharing a bedtime story. It is even more enjoyable to read a particular story again and again.

Each night, once your child has pajamas on and teeth brushed, settle down with a story. One excellent book you can read together is the bedtime classic, *Goodnight Moon*, a book that was written by Margaret Wise Brown over sixty years ago. After your child has enjoyed listening to you read the story, you could have your child point out some of the following items: telephone, red balloon, bears, clocks, kittens, bookshelf, house, socks, mouse, fireplace, comb, mittens, brush, mush, stars, moon, yarn. See if they can find the little mouse on each page. As part of your bedtime routine, you could say goodnight to the things in your child's room. For example, "goodnight teddy bear," "goodnight shoes," "goodnight bed." You could repeat this routine each night.

To vary the routine, you could ask your child if he or she recognized a part of a nursery rhyme in the story. Enjoy *Hey Diddle Diddle*. Enjoy *The Three Little Kittens* together. You could ask, "How does the little bunny know it is time to go to sleep? How do we know when it is time to get ready for bed?"

The benefits for both parents and children include: reading becomes a part of everyday family life, relationships in families are enriched through spending time with one another reading, and children learn to love reading and writing.

Related Nighttime Read Aloud Stories & Poems

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
by Iza Trapani

Where the Wild Things Are
by Maurice Sendak

Franklin in the Dark
by Paulette Bourgeies

So Many Bunnies: A Bedtime ABC and Counting Book by Rick Walton

Where Do Bears Sleep?
by Barbara Shook Hazen

Time for Bed by Mem Fox

Froggy Goes to Bed
by Jonathan London

The Napping House
by Don and Audrey Wood

Everything to Spend the Night: From A to Z
by Ann Whitford Paul

Bedtime Activities for Parents and Children adapted from HarperCollinsPublishers
www.harpercollinschildren.com and from the NWT Literacy Council Books in the Home literacy program
www.hubbardscupboard.org

Submitted by Carol Stamm