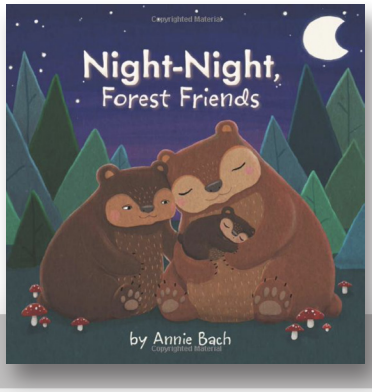
imagination BOOK STOP

FOR AGES 0-5+

NIGHT-NIGHT FOREST FRIENDS written by Annie Bach



Annie Bach has been drawing since she was a little girl and still loves to create the same playful, whimsical creatures she imagined as a child.

›› BEFORE READING

It is best to read together, often. Plan time to read this book to your children or class a few times over the next week. Board books are typically for children ages 0-3, yet older children can appreciate them. Other great books about night time are: The Secret Forest by Sandra Deickmann and the Busy Tree by Jennifar Ward.

›› ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCE NEW WORDS

(Ages 3-5 + years)

Lullaby: a quiet, gentle song sung to send a child to sleep.

Habitat: the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.

Note one of the colors on each page of the story. Show samples or other items that are the same colors. You can use this chart: Color Chart for Kids

- Red
- Pink
- Green
- White
- Brown
- Orange

Talk about homes and habitats: What does your home have that helps you feel cozy at night?

What do the animal's homes all have in common? What do you think helps the animals feel cozy for sleeping?

ACTIVITY ONE: STEAM & LITERACY

Night Activities to do at Home (Ages 2 - 4 years)

1. Turn off all lights in your room, then turn them back on one by one to see how they affect your eyesight
2. Find out what's happening in space right now (like where Jupiter is) using NASA's Eyes on Solar System app
3. Go outside if the weather is nice and look at the moon for 5 minutes without looking away. Ask your child/children what they notice.

ACTIVITY TWO: STEAM OWL EYES

(Ages 3-5+ years)

Ask children if they know about owl's special eyes. Then share that the way owls see is called binocular vision. This unique owl eyesight keeps them from seeing well from side to side. This is the reason why owls turn their heads almost completely around to see.

NOTES: Make this viewer for younger children to

experience. If you are teaching this activity, make one ahead of time as an exemplar to show children. This lesson is good to do over several days for or an owl themed week of learning. You may prepare all of the paper plates ahead of time for younger children to simply paint or, they can construct their own eyesight viewer. This lesson is also great for teaching about basic fractions with older children who are ready. Since the paper plates will be cut into quarter sections, you can extend learning by defining and giving additional examples of the math terms: whole, half, quarter. Share about top and bottom before doing the lesson. Give examples of things that have a distinct top and bottom, like trees, flowers and people.

Supplies needed:

- One long cardboard tube per child, cut in half *prepare ahead, cut six slits on one end of the tube and fold them backwards so the tubes can be attached to the plates.
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Pencils
- Black, brown and yellow, gold or orange paint
- Plastic forks
- Paint brushes

1. After passing out the plates, instruct children to decide which is the top of their paper plates and which is the bottom. Have them label the top “t” or “top” and the bottom “b” or “bottom” depending on age, to practice writing too.

2. Next, demonstrate how to create the main headpiece by removing the bottom fourth of two of the paper plates. Set aside the top ¾ of the plates, which will be used for the viewer.

3. Then, continuing to demonstrate, trace the cardboard tube where the eye holes will be on one of the paper plates. Cut the circles out of that plate. Trace those eye holes onto the second headpiece paper plate. Next, cut out the eye holes on the second paper plate.
4. Cut the third paper plate into fourths. Two of the sections will be used to create the top eye sections for the viewer. Trace the eye holes on those two sections using the headpieces and cut them out.
5. Use a fork to paint the headpieces, ears and eye sections black first and allow them to dry. This is a good time to re-read the story. Then, paint the ear and eye hole sections again with the brown paint, leaving some of the black showing.

6. Next, using a piece of the bottom quarter from one of the headpiece plates, cut a beak. Then, paint the beak of the paper plate gold with a paint brush.
7. Attach the 2 cardboard tube pieces to the back of the unpainted plate. Next, glue the ears on the unpainted plate. Then, glue the painted plate on top to cover the folds of the cardboard tubes on the unpainted plate and the glued edges of the ears.

8. Finally, glue the beak and eye sections to the painted plate. Children can explore by looking around the room through the tubes of their viewer. Ask them to notice that they have to turn their heads the same way an owl does to see things that are not in front of them. Remind them that this way of seeing is called binocular vision.

ACTIVITY THREE: OWL MASK

(Ages 2+ years)

Decorate an owl mask. You can download this free mask template from SimpleMomProject. **Owl mask template**

Use any materials you have like beads, beans or other items for specific fine motor skills and tactile experiences. Glue on these textural items such as feathers, beads, pasta, etc.

ACTIVITY FOUR: PEEK-A-BOO

(Ages 1+ month)

NOTE: This activity is great for interaction with infants age 4 months and older, which is when a baby learns object permanence. Eye contact and individual interaction is enjoyable for babies as young as 1 month too. An infant may be upset with the first few rounds of Peek-A-Boo. After repetition, the baby will learn the caretaker hasn't disappeared. Playing this repetitive game teaches infants that even though you cannot be seen, you still exist. This teaches the big lesson of object permanence. Learning that lesson is clear when the expression of worry shifts to joy. Older toddlers also love this and other repetitive games because they teach cause and effect.

1. Situate yourself close to the baby so your face can be clearly seen. For very young babies, make sure you are only 12" away to account for their developing eyesight. That way, you ensure your face is clear.
2. Cover your face with your hands, a blanket or a stuffed owl, if you have one.
3. Dramatically move your hands or the other item to do a quick reveal with a cooing sound or other fun, sweet noises. This will make it more exciting and teach the baby how to play too.

ACTIVITY FIVE: ART

(Ages 2+ years)

Supplies Needed:

- Construction paper, any color children choose
- Black, brown, grey and white paint
- Orange construction paper, cut triangle beaks
- Celery sticks
- Paint cups or small paper plates

NOTE: Help younger children stamp their celery pieces. Older children will be able to do the entire craft.

Pre-cut triangles and oval templates for younger children. This is a free shape craft so children can cut out their shapes without templates. Demonstrate and allow children freedom to follow along in their own ways.

1. Children choose a piece of construction paper. Next, demonstrate how to cut out 2 ovals from that paper. Then, cut out wings.
2. Next, draw a rainbow shape for the eyes, add lashes and glue the beak onto the oval. (capable and older children can cut their own triangles)
3. Then, glue the head to the body and glue the wings on the back.
4. Last, children dip celery sticks into the paint colors they like to stamp the owl feathers. Paint any other details.

ACTIVITY SIX: MATH

(Ages 2+ years)

Supplies Needed:

- Googly eyes
- Several colors of playdough
- Download, print and laminate these playdough owl counting mats from Preschool Powol Packets: **Owl counting mats**

How to play:

Children can make owls for the number on each mat. They can add googly eyes to the owls. Teach children to trace with their fingers the numbers on the mats and demonstrate how to make the numbers with playdough too.

›› THANKS TO OUR CREATORS:

EARLY LEARNER Lead-Deadwood

Northern Hills ALLIANCE for CHILDREN

CAT Scratch Studios

"It is with gratitude that we are able to work with other outstanding resources already available and I am truly happy to share those in this set of activities with you."

-Cary A. Thrall