

Nighty-Night, Cooper

The 2014 CLEL Bell Award Book for SING

by Laura Numeroff, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger

ISBN-13: 978-0547402055

Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2013



A small kangaroo requests song after song to help him fall asleep, and his mother obliges by making up her own words to familiar tunes. Singing songs together is a powerful way to build phonological awareness skills and vocabulary, and *Nighty-Night, Cooper* models how a parent can use songs to create a comforting bedtime routine with a child.

Activity Ideas for *Nighty-Night, Cooper*:

- Give the children paper and crayons or markers, and invite them to draw a picture while you play some music. When they are done, ask them to tell you about their pictures. Scribbling and drawing are some of the first ways children explore the idea that print carries meaning, a necessary step to understanding how reading works.
- Cooper's mother makes up her own words to several familiar songs, such as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Sing these songs with the children, and help them notice that some of the words sound the same, or rhyme: such as "star/are," and "high/sky." Being able to tell when two words rhyme is a skill that helps children when they begin to sound out words when they read.
- *Nighty-Night, Cooper* takes place at bedtime. Talk with the children about what happens when they go to bed: do they brush their teeth, have a glass of water, read a book? What does their toothpaste taste like? What do their pajamas look like? Being able to describe objects and events gives children a chance to use their vocabulary words and builds comprehension skills.
- Cooper's mother sings a song about the shapes clouds make in the sky. Read the children the classic picture book *It Looked Like Spilt Milk*, by Charles Shaw, or print silhouette images to show them. What shapes can they recognize? Talk about what makes certain shapes the same and different: do they have curvy lines? Pointy parts? Thinking about shapes will help children learn to recognize the different letters of the alphabet.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org/content/bell-awards>



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