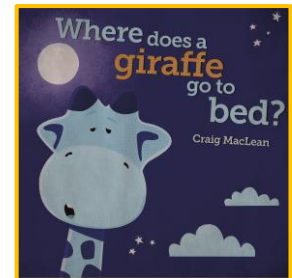




Where Does a Giraffe Go To Bed?

By Craig MacLean

Craig Maclean poses an interesting question - Where do giraffes go to bed? His answer is not what you might think! This story illustrates the sleeping habits of many well-known animals through rhyming text and pretty illustrations. It is a gentle, yet thought provoking read, which would make a lovely 'goodnight' story.



Key Message for Parents | Good nutrition, health and exercise are critical

Sleep is an essential part of healthy lifestyle. Lack of sleep can affect your child's mood and ability to function. Having a bed time routine is vital for children to develop good routines and habits around sleep. Some tips to share with parents on how to set up a positive sleep routine are:

- Begin routine activities approximately one hour before bedtime. Dim the lights or play soft music to signal to your child that it is time to settle down. This relaxation mode can be also enhanced by a warm bath, massage and of course, cuddling up for a bed time story
- A sleep routine doesn't need to be hard work, but it does take time to work out what works best for you and your child
- Once you have established a routine that works try to stick to it, as much as possible. Young children thrive on predictability; it helps them understand what comes next in their day.

Learning Outcomes | Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

We can help young children become confident learners by:

- Providing learning experience that are open ended and that begin with a child's own knowledge. In context, *"what are some things we know about giraffes?"*
- Encourage thinking strategies when reading out loud like prediction or problem solving. In today's story, children are presented with a fact (giraffes sleep with their head on a cloud) Is this true? To answer this question, children will be questioning and wondering. These conversations promote and encourage creativity and critical thinking
- Listen carefully to children's ideas and reflections. By doing this we are validating their efforts and also modelling good listening.

Find booklists, tip sheets, nursery rhymes and activity and learning time sheets @

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au     



Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!



Sing

It's Fun to be a Giraffe

(to listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HNaZZTW1oc>)

Every other animal

Looks up to me

But I'm the strangest creature

That you will ever see

Skinny, spotted legs

And tiny ears on top

With a long, long neck

That never seems to stop

(Chorus)

Giraffe! Giraffe!

My Head is in the clouds

Giraffe! Giraffe!

High above the crowds

Take a look, and you gotta laugh

It's fun to be a giraffe!

Standing on my tiptoes

I can reach the sky

Stretching out my neck to

Eat the leaves up high

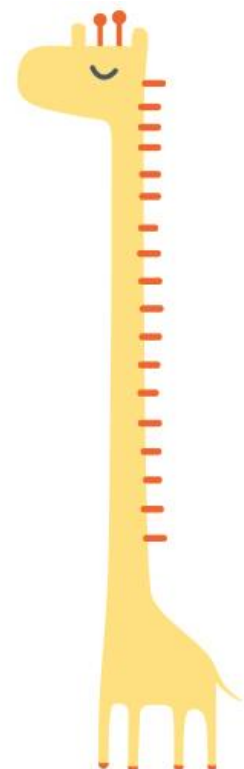
Sticking out my tongue

To pluck the highest ones

I chew them nice and slow

Until I'm all done

(repeat chorus)





Before Reading

Set the scene. Engage young readers with some visual cues to help them connect with the story. Some props for this Learning Time could include:

- Toy giraffe/s
- Pictures of animals
- Any soft animal toys

Before reading make time to chat with the children in your group. Talking builds language skills and allows you to determine what children already know about giraffes. Some questions you could ask:

- What do we see on the front cover? A giraffe!
- Which part of the giraffe can we see?
- What do giraffes have which make them so unique? A long neck! Can you make your neck long too?
- Today's story is called *Where does a giraffe go to bed?* It is written and illustrated by Craig Maclean. I wonder where a giraffe might sleep? Before we read the story let's try to answer that question! Share thoughts and ideas about where a giraffe might sleep...

During Reading

On every page we meet a different animal. The text is coloured where there are significant words like *hutch, den or hive*. You may want to talk about these words before you start the story, or talk about them while reading the story to help to explain the different types of animal beds/houses. The word *giraffe* is also coloured to prompt reader to put emphasis on that word too as you read. You might like to encourage children to join in and say 'giraffe' at the appropriate point in the story.

After Reading

The story finishes with a picture of a giraffe with its head resting on a cloud! Do you think a giraffe really sleeps with its head on a cloud? Discuss with the children. Would it be possible? Questions like these develop a child's capacity to think critically and creatively.

Technology can be useful with toddlers. YouTube clips can help to bring experiences to life. If you can, show children this video clip of a giraffe asleep. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pK7fYsQ36tc>

After watching this clip (you may need to show it 2-3 times) chat with children in your group about what they saw. Spend time curling up on the floor 'pretending' to be a sleeping giraffe.

You might like to chat with children about bed time.

- Where do we sleep? Can the children describe their bed at home? Or recall details like what kind of pillow they have, soft toys or what else is in their room?
- What time they go to bed? What things they do before bedtime? (Teeth, brush hair etc.)
- What other animals did we meet in the story and where did they sleep?
- Do you have any pets and where do they sleep?



Sing

5 Little Giraffes Jumping on the Bed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzfKqbvAPCI>

*5 little giraffes, jumping on the bed,
One fell off and bumped their head
Mother called the doctor and the doctor said,
“no more giraffes jumping on the bed!”*



Repeat for 4, 3, 2, 1 giraffes

Activity Time

Giraffe Picture

This simple activity builds hand/ eye coordination and control

What you need:

- Giraffe template (attached)
- Wet wipes for easy clean up
- Brown and yellow paint on paper plates
- Glue sticks
- Cotton wool - optional



What to do:

1. Print out copies of giraffe template
2. Demonstrate first, showing the children how you use just the tip of your finger to make the dot on the giraffe. Encourage them to work slowly and carefully. When they have made their giraffe they can wipe paint off their fingers with a wet-wipe.
3. In this story giraffes sleep by resting their head on a cloud! Children might like to add some cotton wool to their artwork to represent clouds.

Extension/ other activities

- Match the animal to where they sleep (visit Little Big Book Club Activity Time for FREE Download <http://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/titles/where-does-a-giraffe-go-to-bed>)
- Make a “Dream Bed” in a shoe box, using old material
- Make a bed for your pet!

STEM FOCUS

Discovering and learning about our natural world is a perfect way to engage your child’s curiosity and nurture their inner scientist. By exploring where different animals live (their habitats) and sleep, children will learn about unique features in both the environment and animals themselves. Spend some time outdoors - whenever children can safely touch, look at, and play in nature this helps them develop an understanding of our land, plants and animals.



Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area

- **Giraffes Can't Dance** by *Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees*
- **Goodnight Moon** by *Margaret Wise Brown*
- **Lullabies for Bedtime** by *Little Book Press*
- **Goodnight Everyone** by *Chris Haughton*
- **10 Little Owls** by *Reneé Trembl*

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush) or your preferred choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action) Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!

