Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Once upon a time, there were three bears that lived in a cottage in the forest. They were Father Bear, Mother Bear, and Baby Bear. In the village nearby, there lived a little girl with long golden hair. Because of her beautiful hair, she was known as Goldilocks.

One morning, Mother Bear cooked some porridge. “Ouch! This porridge is too hot,” yelped Baby Bear. The bears decided to leave the porridge to cool while they went for a morning walk.

On this very same day, Goldilocks went out for a walk in the forest, too. When she came to a clearing, she noticed the bears’ neat little cottage. She looked in through the windows and saw that nobody was at home, so she went inside.

On the kitchen table were three bowls of porridge. “Mmmm,” Goldilocks said, sniffing the porridge. She tasted Father Bear’s big bowl of porridge. “Ouch,” she cried. “This porridge is too hot.” Next she tasted Mother Bear’s porridge in its pretty china bowl. “Yuck, this porridge is too cold,” she said. Finally, she tasted Baby Bear’s porridge. “Mmmm, this porridge is just right,” she said, and she gobbled it all up.

When she was done, she decided to sit down for awhile. She tried Father Bear’s and Mother Bear’s chairs, but they were too big for her. So, she settled comfortably on Baby Bear’s chair, which was just the right size. But soon Goldilocks heard a crrrrrrrraaaaaaack and the chair broke beneath her because she was too heavy.

Goldilocks began to get sleepy. She went upstairs to see if there was a bed where she could take a nap. First, she tried Father Bear’s bed. “This bed is too hard,” Goldilocks said, squirming uncomfortably. Next, she tried Mother Bear’s bed. “This bed is too soft,” she said, sinking down into the fluffy bed. Finally, she tried Baby Bear’s bed. “This bed is just right,” she sighed happily and fell fast asleep.

While Goldilocks was sleeping, the Bear family returned from their morning walk, hungry for their porridge. Father Bear looked at his porridge, “Someone has been eating my porridge,” he growled.

Mother Bear looked at her porridge, “Someone has been eating my porridge,” she said.

Then Baby Bear looked at his porridge, “Someone has been eating my porridge and has eaten it all up!” he cried.

Then the bears looked at their chairs scattered about the room. “Someone has been sitting in my chair,” grumbled Father Bear.

“Someone has been sitting in my chair,” said Mother Bear.

Then Baby Bear looked at his chair in pieces on the floor. “Someone has been sitting in my chair, and has broken it to pieces!” he wailed.

Finally, the bears noticed their messy beds. “Someone has been sleeping in my bed,” thundered Father Bear.

“Someone has been sleeping in my bed,” said Mother Bear.

“Someone has been sleeping in my bed, and here she is still!” cried Baby Bear.

Goldilocks awoke with a start. She saw the bears looking angrily at her. She jumped out of bed, ran out of the house, and sped through the forest back to her home. She never went to the bears’ house again.
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The popular folk tale, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, provides many opportunities for fun learning activities during your Storybook Camp.

**Social Studies**

**A Question of Character**
Use Goldilocks’ behavior in the story to spark a discussion of appropriate behavior. Ask your child to think about some of these questions:
- Was it safe or right for Goldilocks to enter the bears’ house?
- How would he or she feel if someone came into your house and did what Goldilocks did?
- What would happen to your child if he or she did the things that Goldilocks did?
- What do you think happened to Goldilocks after she left the bears’ house?
- What will the Bear family do next?

**Dear Bear Family**
Have your child pretend to be Goldilocks and dictate a letter to the three bears explaining her behavior. Or, conversely, your children can pretend to be one of the bears and dictate a letter to Goldilocks telling how they feel about her behavior.

**Math**

**Size Wise**
Place three different-sized teddy bears (small, medium, and large), or pictures of three different-sized teddy bears, in front of three boxes. Gather a collection of objects, or pictures of objects, in different sizes to sort. Have your child find the object most suitable for each sized bear. For example, a ping pong ball would be appropriate for “Baby bear,” while “Papa Bear” would prefer a basketball.

**Science**

**Bear Necessities**
Read a simple nonfiction book about bears. Contrast how real bears live—what they eat, where they live, and so on—with the fictional bears in the Goldilocks story. For a fun gross motor extension activity, have your child pretend to be a real bear. For example, he or she can pretend to catch fish, get honey from a hive, climb a tree, sleep in a den, or growl at danger.

**Texture Time**
Use Goldilocks’ complaint that the bears’ furniture was too soft or too hard to explore materials or household objects with those and other textures, such as smooth, rough, and slippery.

**“Bear Claw” Treats**
Make “bear claws” using refrigerated biscuit dough. Brush each biscuit with melted butter or margarine, sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar, and insert almond slivers around the edge so that the biscuit looks like claws. Bake the biscuits according to the package directions.
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You and your child can make masks and then use them to retell the story. Here’s how:

1. Provide crayons or markers for your child to color the masks.
2. Help your child cut the masks along the outside edge, or cut them out yourself.
3. To make masks:
   Tape the cut-outs to craft sticks for your child to hold in front of his or her face.