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Goldilocks and the Three Bears





Getting Started

There's a reason so many well-loved tales feature elements in threes. The pattern established in the story of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" (as well as in "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" and "The Three Little Kittens") creates a predictable, repetitive story. It is a language pattern children can anticipate and interact with as they join in the telling. It's just right for early learners. Young children understand the concept of three, and they understand family relationships between characters. In Goldilocks' story, early learners delight in predicting contrasts: between hot and cold, between hard and soft, and between large and small. Finally, the suspense created when the bears return to their cottage is just about as much as any early learner can take.

Enjoy this timeless story for its repetitive language, its predictability and for the way in which it introduces the language of story. *Once upon a time* is soon recognized by children as a signal that a good story is about to begin. This delicious anticipation will last a lifetime.

Reading the Story Aloud

1. If you are reading the story aloud or telling the story as a listening activity, use the text on the following pages.
2. Make copies of the illustration on page 14 so that each child has a visual support to look at as you read, and to help reinforce any unfamiliar concepts.
3. Before reading, invite children to talk about what they see in the illustration and to name objects they can identify.

Books to Read

If you are reading a picture book version of the story to children, there are many wonderful retellings from which to choose. While most illustrations are classic, reflecting each illustrator's style, *The Three Bears* by Byron Barton presents a very unique, simplified story that appeals to very young children. Some other age-appropriate versions are:

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

by Jan Brett

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

by James Marshall

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

by David McPhail

Goldilocks Returns

by Lisa Campbell Ernst

Ricitos de oro y los tres osos

by Mata Marta

Somebody and the Three Blairs

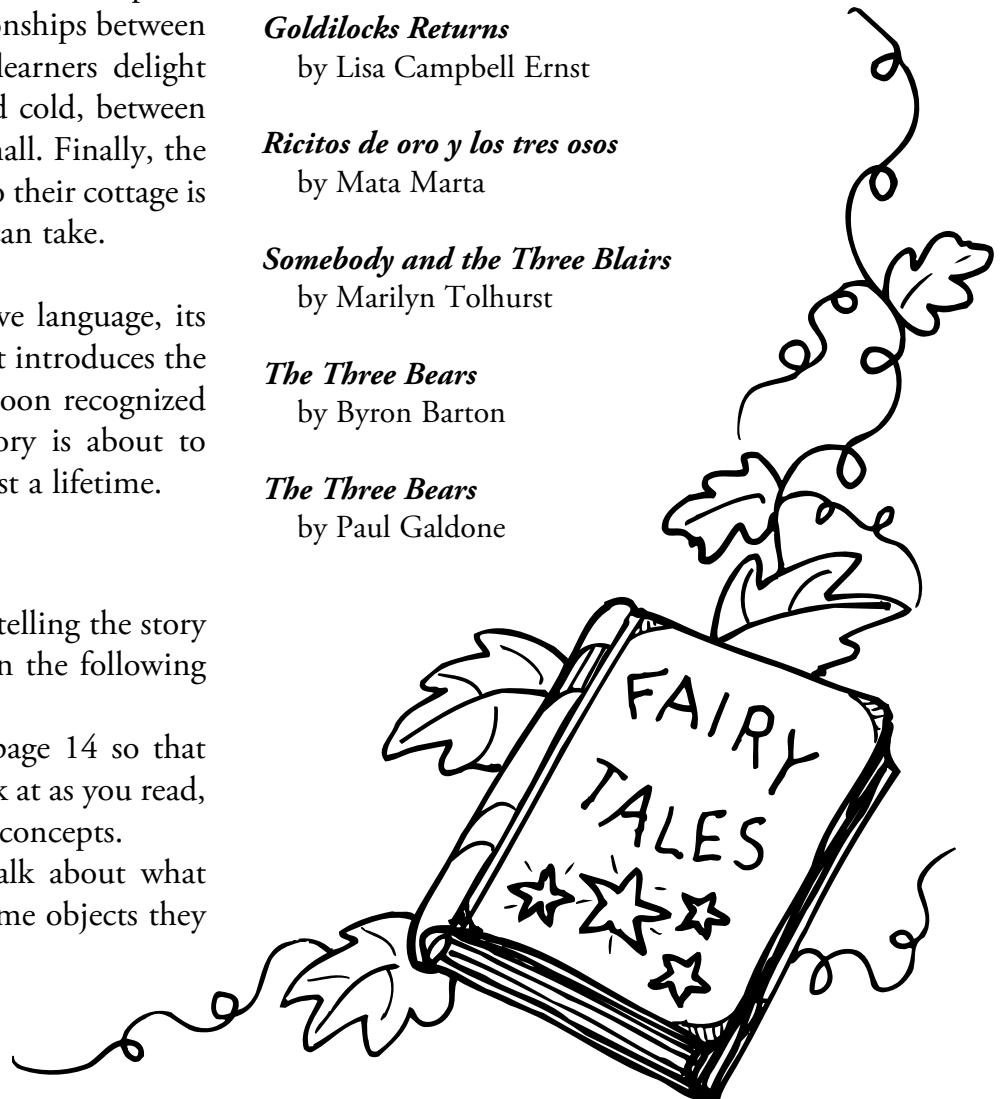
by Marilyn Tolhurst

The Three Bears

by Byron Barton

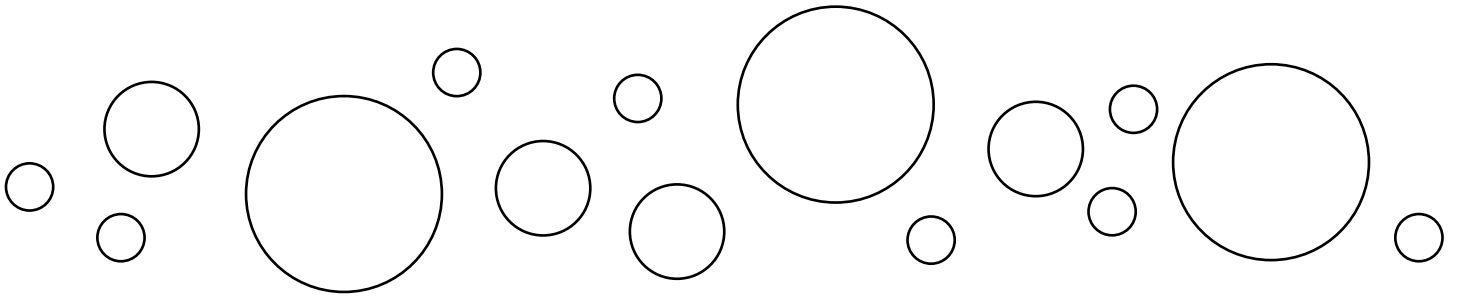
The Three Bears

by Paul Galdone



GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

A Story to Read Aloud



Once upon a time, there were three bears who lived in a cottage in the woods. One was great big Papa Bear, one was middle-sized Mama Bear, and one was teeny tiny Baby Bear.

Every morning, the three bears ate their porridge for breakfast. Great big Papa Bear had a great big bowl. Middle-sized Mama Bear had a middle-sized bowl. And teeny tiny Baby Bear had a teeny tiny bowl.

One morning, the three bears decided to go for a walk in the woods while their porridge cooled. They left their cottage, but they didn't lock the door.

A little girl named Goldilocks, who had long golden hair, was also walking in the woods that morning. She saw the three bears' adorable little cottage.

"Oh, what a cute little cottage! I think I'll see if anybody's home," said Goldilocks. She knocked on the

door and, because it wasn't locked, it opened! "I think I'll go in," said Goldilocks, even though she was uninvited.

On the table in the kitchen, Goldilocks saw the three bowls of porridge. "Oh, I'm so very hungry! I think I'll help myself to some porridge. It looks delicious!"

First, Goldilocks tried the porridge in the great big bowl. "This porridge is too hot!" she said.

Next, she tried the porridge in the middle-sized bowl. "Oh, this porridge is too cold!" she said.

Then she tried the porridge in the teeny tiny bowl. "This porridge is just right!" said Goldilocks, and she ate it all up.

Next, Goldilocks went into the living room, where she saw three chairs. First, she sat in the great big chair. "Oh, this chair is too hard!" said Goldilocks.