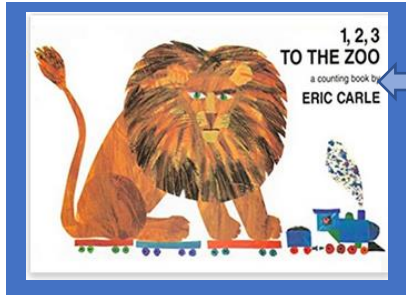


## (Almost) Wordless Books - Let's go to the zoo! 1/2

Wordless books are amazing! They eliminate the pressure to read a book a certain way. These books unleash imagination and set the stage for the reader to customize details to fit the child's interests and surroundings. It allows the reader to adjust the story fit a child's level of understanding, and attention span.

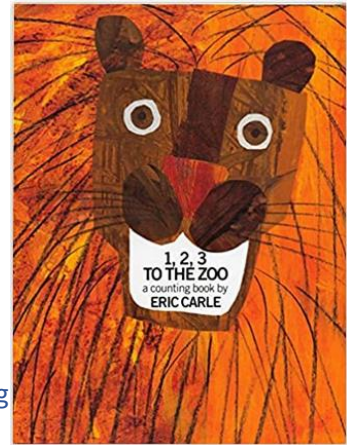


### 1,2,3 to the Zoo by Eric Carle

Board Book Version for the little ones. Babies will:

- chew on the cover to explore
- palm the pages in attempt to turn them
- treat the book like a toy – stack it, throw it, sit on it, etc.

These are typical early literacy skills. Showing one page and naming the animal might be your complete reading and that's okay!



### 1,2,3 to the Zoo by Eric Carle

Picture Book Version: Older infants and toddlers fine tune grip toward a pincer grasp for turning pages. As you read this book:

- Tell a story. Match the length of your sentence to the ability of your child's expressive language. If your child is saying one word, you may say "Look" "Lion!" If they use two word phrases, your reading sounds like "green sssnakessss." For children using 3-5 word phrases, "I see giraffes!" "Alligators on the train!" As your child's skills build, your phrases expand.
- Pause. Notice your child's reactions and follow his lead as you continue the story. If your child stops and pretends to be a monkey, please stop and put the book down and join in!
- Model animal noises, encourage imitation – include the whole family, taking turns. Is there a right way to imitate the sound of a seal? Aren't giraffes silent? You decide. Be consistent, using that sound each time you see that animal.
- Make a connection with the animals that you've seen elsewhere. "An elephant! We saw that at the zoo." "A giraffe has a lloooonnggg neck." (While you make a stretching motion with your neck.)
- Make a game out of finding the mouse on each page.
- Point out, discuss, the train as it grows. Every once in awhile stop and together, call "Chugga chugga choo choo"
- Do I read it the same way every time or is it okay for me to change the story each time? Gauge your child's interactions with the book. If she likes it the same every time, then do it her way... but change something here and there for fun, to get her to pay attention and anticipate your 'errors,' or if you are trying to help your child not be fixated on everything enacted the same way. Also, if your child is just learning language, you will use simple one to two words per page, and to model, you'll want to do it the same way, but then you can expand as your child grows. Change the story every time if your child enjoys humor or if he is used to hearing a variety of stories. Let him help make the story.
- Wait – isn't this a counting book? Yes. Indeed. I contend that all the above actions are most important for the little ones. For an older toddler, it is great to add in the counting part. If all is well, you've read this book from the start, and your child loves it, and you'll know when to switch focus on the numbers, reading your child's reactions, interest and interaction with numbers.
- Start with modeling. Point to the number, say the number, point and count animals – nonchalantly to see if your child's interested. Then include your child expanding the reading activity to include my turn your turn, answering "how many?" and helping count. Having 3-D zoo animal toys will help with changing from repeating a number to recognizing it to actually quantifying the objects. Remember to "chugga chugga" and make animal noises along the way!

## (Almost) Wordless Books - Let's go to the zoo! 2/2

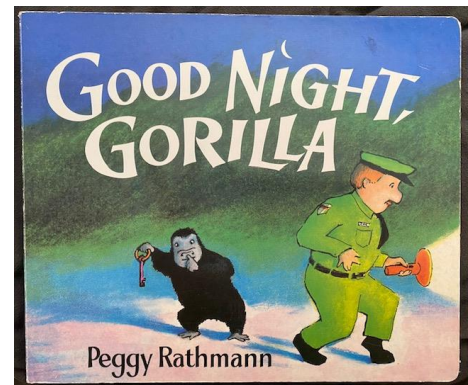
Wordless books are amazing! They eliminate the pressure to read a book a certain way. These books unleash imagination and set the stage for the reader to customize details to fit the child's interests and surroundings. It allows the reader to adjust the story fit a child's level of understanding, and attention span. This book is pure mischief and giggles and anticipating what's next!

### Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

Babies will:

- chew on the cover to explore
- palm the pages in attempt to turn them
- treat the book like a toy – stack it, throw it, sit on it, etc.

These are typical early literacy skills. Showing one page and naming the animal might be your complete reading and that's okay!



Older infants and toddlers fine tune grip toward a pincer grasp for turning pages. As you read this book:

This book is funny! The gorilla is playing a trick on the zookeeper and he (spoiler alert) follows the zookeeper around the zoo, unlocking the cages as they go, and soon there is an spontaneous animal parade that leads to an unexpected slumber party!

- Explore this book together with your toddler. No need to create a story, the shenanigans on every page are enough to keep interest in the book, and talking about them naturally makes a story. (Don't over-story it -let the pictures tell!)
  - \* Point to the animals for your child to name, answer your child's questions/points to name the animals for him.
  - \* Giggle and gasp and show surprise as you see the gorilla let yet another animal out of its cage.
- If you and your older toddler want to make up a story, name the characters, use funny voices. At the start, for an early language learner, match the length of your sentence to the ability of your child's expressive language. If your child is saying one word, you may say "Look" "Lion!" "Oops!" and "oh-oh!" are certainly appropriate for this story. If your child uses two word phrases, your reading sounds like "open door" or "monkey yawning." For children using 3-5 word phrases, "I see giraffe!" or "Elephant? In the house?" As your child's skills build, your phrases expand.
- Pause. Notice your child's reactions and follow his lead as you continue the story. If your child stops and pretends to be a monkey, please stop and put the book down and join in!
- Make a connection with the animals that you've seen elsewhere. "An elephant! We saw that at the zoo." "A giraffe has a llooonnggg neck." (While you make a stretching motion with your neck.)
- Make a game out of finding the mouse with the banana on each page.
- Model pretend play, copying the gorilla's plea "shhhh" (with index finger exaggerated) and "night-night" (snuggling in to sleep). The repetitiveness of the phrase "Good night, (insert animal here)" is a phrase you can take into other play situations. Act out the story. Put stuffed animals to bed.