A little gorilla sneaks out of its enclosure and follows a person to their home one night. What do you think the little gorilla is up to? Share this mostly wordless book with your young child to find out! A story about mischief, love, and family, this is a wonderful book to help develop your child’s print awareness and critical thinking skills.

Did you know?
Asking questions about what will happen next, comparing ideas, and making predictions are all parts of developing critical thinking skills. Help your baby develop these skills by asking questions throughout Good Night, Gorilla even before they can speak. Though they may not answer, they are learning.

Talk about it!
While babies and young children might not be able to answer your questions, they are learning as they hear you talk. When you ask and answer your own questions, you are helping your child learn language!

- When reading a wordless book, describe the pictures you see. Count objects, show your child things that they are familiar with and point out things that might be new.

- Even though the characters don’t actually talk in this book, you can still make up your own dialogue. What do you think the characters might be thinking or saying? Share your thoughts with your child. You could say, for example, “I think that little gorilla wants us to be quiet so the guard won’t know that he snuck out of his cage. See how he’s holding his finger to his lips? That means ‘Shhh’.”

- What are your family’s sleep habits? Has your child ever snuck into your bed? Do you all sleep in a family bed? Talk to your child about your family’s sleep habits, and how valuable it is to get a good night’s rest.

Play: (activity with no materials)
Read this book again, but this time whisper the entire thing as though you are sneaking and don’t want to be caught. Try to use as many words and be as animated as you can. Does whispering hold your baby’s attention longer?

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Scan this QR code with your phone’s camera to see our Read Aloud of this book!
Create: Pretend Keys

Materials needed: • coloring sheet template • tape or glue
• crayons • yarn or a key ring

Gorilla breaks out of his enclosure at the zoo, and helps other animals do they same! Create your own set of keys to help Gorilla open the enclosures as you read together.

1. Using the attached coloring sheet mplate, help your child color the keys and animals on the sheet.

2. Your child may color any way they want, but if you want to practice color matching, look at the book and ask your child: “What color is the key for the gorilla’s cage?” Color the gorilla’s key with the corresponding color. Then ask: “What color is the key for the elephant’s cage?” Color the elephant’s key with the corresponding color, and so on.

3. When your child is done coloring, help them cut out the keys and animals. If your child is older than two, let them do the cutting. Supervise your child whenever they use a pair of child-safe scissors.

4. Help your child glue or tape one of the animals on each key. You can practice color matching and letter matching, too! Just write the first letter of each animal on the back of the key.

5. Using an old key ring or a piece of yarn, assemble a set of keys for your child.

6. Now, share the book again. Using their new set of keys, your child can help Gorilla open all the cages.