



# Storytime Activity Guide

## *The Animals Would Not Sleep*

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Marco wants to get his (toy) animals ready for bedtime. He begins by sorting them into three separate baskets: Flying, Swimming, and Land Animals. But the animals refuse to go to sleep. They jump out and run wildly around the room. What to do? Marco likes to come up with new ideas like a “good scientist,” so he decides on a different way to sort. But that doesn’t work either! How does Marco group the animals to get them to sleep?

### Did you know?

A good foundation in **early math** prepares children for “math thinking,” and for later academic success. Early Math includes number sense, classifications and patterning, measurement, mathematical reasoning, and geometry (shapes). While reading *The Animals Would Not Sleep*, practice sorting together by size, color, and types of animals. Use relational language (bigger, smaller, close, far) to develop your child’s early math skills.



### Words to Practice

#### MATH WORDS

sort, scientist, organized, appropriate, group, medium-sized, thinking outside the box

#### OTHER WORDS

ruckus, container, menagerie, cramped, cooperating

### Talk about it!

#### HOW THE ANIMALS WERE SORTED

“Why are these animals in this basket? What’s the rule?”

#### HOW THE SAME ANIMALS CAN BE SORTED IN DIFFERENT BASKETS

“Giraffe and dinosaur were both in the Animals That Move on Land basket. But now they are in different baskets. Why?”

#### SIZES OF ANIMALS

“Why were the animals in the large basket unhappy?”

#### THINKING LIKE A SCIENTIST

“What does it mean to think outside the box?” (If one solution doesn’t work, you have to think of a new, different approach.)

### Find More Online

Scan this QR code to for a Read Aloud of this book and more free resources.



[qrco.de/AnimalsNotSleep](http://qrco.de/AnimalsNotSleep)

All resources can be found at:  
[tandembayarea.org](http://tandembayarea.org),  
[familymath.stanford.edu](http://familymath.stanford.edu), and [pbssoal.org](http://pbssoal.org)

## Create!

Get creative with this fun paper plate animal math craft! Your child will create animals with paper plates while comparing quantities. We will make a spider with 8 legs, a pig with four legs and a baby chick with 2 legs. Once complete, you can compare the animal legs or order them from most to least legs. Ask questions like: “Which animal has more legs than the pig? Which animals have less legs than the spider? How many legs are there altogether?”

### Materials needed:

- Paper plates (or other round objects like lids, paper bowls or pom poms)
- Construction paper and/or pipe cleaners
- Markers or crayons
- Glue
- Googly eyes (optional)

#### 1. Make a spider!

- Did you know spiders have eight legs and eight eyes? Use a paper plate for the spider’s body. Color it with crayons or markers.
- Cut out eight construction paper strips for the legs or use eight pipe cleaners. Glue the legs to the sides of the paper plate.
- Cut out a small circle for the head and draw eight eyes on it (or you can use googly eyes). Attach the spider’s head to the paper plate body with glue.
- Bonus! Punch a hole on the paper plate and tie a string to hang your spider from its web!



#### 2. Make a pig!

- Use a paper plate colored pink for the pig’s body.
- For the legs, cut four hearts out of construction paper. Glue two legs to the bottom front of the paper plate and two legs to the bottom back of the paper plate.
- Cut two triangles out of construction paper for the ears and glue them to the top of the paper plate.
- Cut a round pig snout out of construction paper and draw on two ovals for the nostrils. Glue it onto the paper plate.
- Draw two eyes or add googly eyes.
- Bonus! Twirl a pipe cleaner, punch a hole on the side of the plate, and insert the pipe cleaner to make a tail!



Can you think of other animals with eight legs? What about other animals with four legs? How many legs do you have?

**Tip!** Depending on your child’s age and development, you might need to help them cut some of the shapes for ears, legs, etc. Even if you are cutting most shapes, remember to talk about them, how many sides have, are they long or short, etc.



### Play: Sort The Laundry into Categories

The category of size could involve small (socks), medium (underwear), and large (shirts) items. Ask your child to decide on a new way to sort and to explain their rules for how to do it.

