



# Goldilocks and the Three Bears

The popular folk tale, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, provides many opportunities for fun learning activities across the curriculum. Here are some suggestions.

## Social Studies

### A Question of Character

Use Goldilocks' behavior in the story to spark a discussion of appropriate behavior. Ask children to think about some of these questions:

- Was it safe or right for Goldilocks to enter the bears' house?
- How would children feel if someone came into their house and did what Goldilocks did?
- What would happen to children if they 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?

**Extension:** Have children pretend to be Goldilocks and dictate a letter to the three bears explaining her behavior. Or, conversely, 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 children 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.

### All Sorts of Bears

Have children bring in their favorite teddy bears or other stuffed animals. Work with children to compare and then sort the different bears by color, size, or other attributes.

### Porridge, Please

Make some instant oatmeal and divide it into small cups. Add some brown sugar or honey to the oatmeal. Draw a simple graph on the board with a column labeled with a happy face representing a favorable reaction and a column labeled with a sad face representing an unfavorable reaction. As children taste the porridge, write their names in the column that represents their reaction to the porridge. Discuss the results.

## Science

### Bears: Fact and Fiction

Read children 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 children pretend to be real bears. For example, they 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 classroom objects with those and other textures, such as smooth, rough, and slippery.

### "Bear Claw" Treats

Children can 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.

## Language Arts

### "B" is for Bear

Remind children that several words from the story such as bear, bowl, and bed begin with the letter *B*. Have each child draw a picture of something that begins with the sound of the letter *B*. Gather the pictures in a class book entitled, *B is for Bear and More*.

## Using the Make-Your-Own Puppets Reproducible

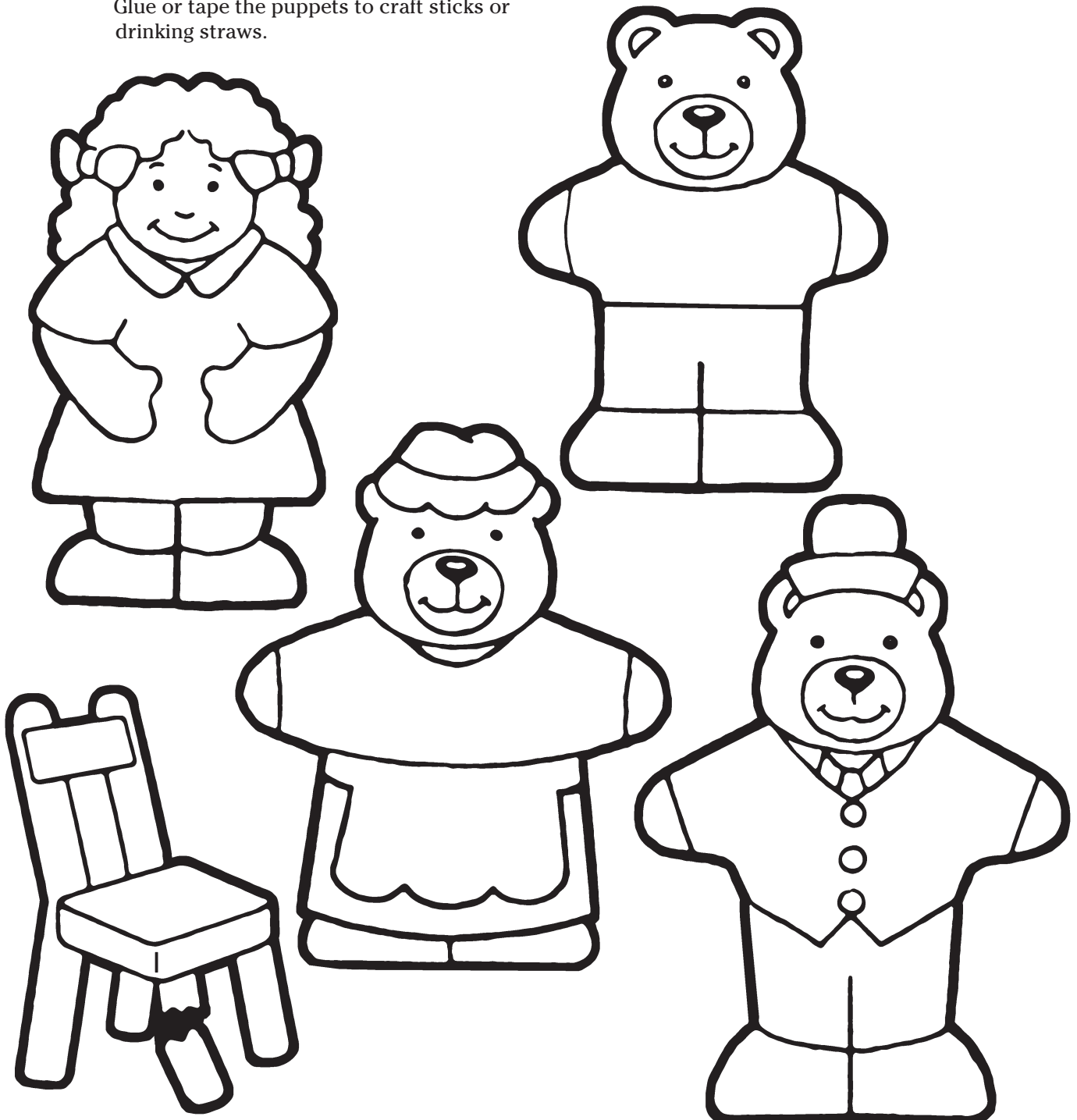
Send the FingerTale puppet fun home with your students! Just reproduce the included story and puppets for each child. It's a great way for children to continue building language arts skills, from vocabulary development to listening comprehension.

# MAKE-YOUR-OWN FINGERTALE PUPPETS

## Goldilocks and the Three Bears

You and your child can make your own puppets and then use them to retell the familiar story your child enjoyed at school. Here's how:

1. Provide crayons or markers for your child to color the puppets.
2. Help your child cut the puppets out along the outside edge, or cut them out yourself.
3. **To make "stick puppets":**  
Glue or tape the puppets to craft sticks or drinking straws.
4. **To make "finger puppets":**  
Trace the outline of each of the puppets onto a second piece of paper. Cut the outline out and staple it to the back of the puppet along the edges, leaving the bottom open to allow room for your finger.





# 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," yelled 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 *crrrrrrrraaaaaaaack* 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.

