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It's bedtime and Marco needs to put his animals away. Marco's animals don't like the way he sorts them into groups and won't go to sleep. How will Marco solve this problem?

Ages: 2 to 7 years

ATOS Reading Level: N/A

Lexile: AD540L

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The Animals Would Not Sleep!

How would you get the animals to go to sleep?

Topics: sorting, classifying, sets

Activities To Do Together:

Before you read the book *The Animals Would Not Sleep!* with your child:

- Look at the cover of the book, read the story title, and ask your child to tell you why they think the animals will not go to sleep.
- Count the animals on the cover of the book and talk about where people encounter these animals.

As you read *The Animals Would Not Sleep!* with your child:

- Notice and describe the different ways that Marco sorts the animals. This might sound like, "Marco sorted the animals by the way they move - flying, swimming, and moving on land."
- On the pages where Marco decides to group the animals by size, ask your child into which basket they would place the fish, bears, frog, and zebra.

When you are done reading *The Animals Would Not Sleep!*:

- Ask your child to gather a group of objects and sort them. When they finish, ask them to tell you about their sorting strategy. Encourage your child to sort the same collection of objects several different ways.
- Play a sorting game together. Collect 20 objects and put them into a pile. Take turns selecting objects from the pile until all are gone and you and your child each have your own collection of objects. Sort the objects, but don't tell each other how you sorted. Take turns guessing each other's sorting strategy. Did you sort by shape, size, texture, color, function, or some other characteristic?
- Take a nature walk. Collect leaves, twigs, pebbles, feathers, etc. Ask your child to show you how to sort the objects you collected. Muffin tins and egg cartons make great sorting trays.

Questions for Mathematical Thinking:

1. In what ways did Marco sort his animals? What other ways do you think he could have sorted them?
2. What did Marco do when he was unsuccessful in getting the animals to go to sleep? What would you have done?
3. What happened when Marco sorted the animals by size? What problems did it cause for the small and large animals?
4. Marco said that good scientists care about their animals. What other things do you think a good scientist does?
5. What problem solving skills did Marco use?
6. How do you use sorting?

Early Math Project Resources:

Visit The Animals Would Not Sleep Activities (earlymathca.org/the-animals-would)

Follow this link or visit earlymathca.org/external-resources for additional online resources.

Vocabulary

Math words found in the story: almost, appropriate, big, close to, group, large, little more, medium, more, organized, probably, size, small, sort, two, yet

Related math words: attributes, characteristics, classify

Words to build reading comprehension: container, cooperating, cozy, cramped, cranky, drafty, dumped, egged, outside the box, overtired, menagerie, ruckus, scientist, settled in, smooshed, spikes, still, trying, uncomfortable, upset, whined

Spanish Title: *¡Los animales no se dormían!*

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Related Books: *Hannah's Collections* by Marthe Jocelyn; *Sam Sorts* by Marthe Jocelyn; *Sort It Out!* By Barbara Mariconda; *3 Little Firefighters* by Stuart J. Murphy

Math Connections:

When children sort objects by a common attribute, they develop important skills that support their success with mathematics. When we talk about an object's attributes we are referring to the properties of an object, such as the object's size, number of sides, color, shape, use, or texture. When children sort objects by their attributes they are figuring out what does and does not belong in a set, which is a pre-requisite for mathematical understanding. Sorting supports success with topics such as fractions, data analysis, and algebra.

Use the book *The Animals Would Not Sleep!* to talk about the different ways that objects can be organized. Ask your child how they would have sorted the animals in the story. Talk about some of the practical ways that people use the attributes of objects to organize their belongings purposefully. A kitchen is a great location to reinforce this idea. Talk about how foods are commonly separated according to their temperature requirements. Talk about what would go in the refrigerator, a cupboard, or a freezer. Foods are sometimes organized by the way they are packaged, by can, box, or bag. Look at how food is arranged on a shelf and ask your child to determine if it has been sorted. If so, how? This is a great observational conversation to have at the grocery store too. You can also talk about sorting at laundry time. Ask your child how they'd sort a basket of laundry. What would be important to consider so the laundry gets back where it belongs?

In the story, Marco uses several different strategies to group his animals. First, he tries grouping the animals by where they move - through the air (flying animals), in the water (swimming animals), and on land. When that sorting strategy doesn't produce the results he'd hoped for, he sorts the same group of animals by color and then by size. Talk with your child about how they might sort their toys or a special collection. If you have a "junk drawer" where objects like pens, pencils, rubber bands, crayons, etc., get stashed, consider sorting the drawer with your child and think of ways the objects could be organized.

Encourage your child to sort collections of objects such as a group of sea shells, rocks, leaves, buttons, spools of thread, etc. Suggest that they sort the objects several different ways and make a game of guessing how they've sorted the objects each time they sort them in a new way.

Be mindful of choking hazards when sorting small objects.

Click this link to the World Catalog or enter https://bit.ly/43DJCtv to find *The Animals Would Not Sleep* in the public library.

Age Level	Related Infant Toddler Foundations, Preschool Foundations and CA State Standards
Infant/ Toddler	**Cause and Effect** The developing understanding that one event brings about another **Spatial Relationships** The developing understanding of how things move and fit in space **Problem Solving** The developing ability to engage in a purposeful effort to reach a goal or figure out how something works **Classification** The developing ability to group, sort, categorize, connect, and have expectations of objects and people according to their attributes
Preschool/ TK	**Algebra and Functions 1.0** Children begin to sort and classify objects in their everyday environment
Kindergarten	**Measurement and Data K.MD. 1.** Describe and compare measurable attributes
First Grade	**Geometry 1.G.1.** Reason with shapes and their attributes