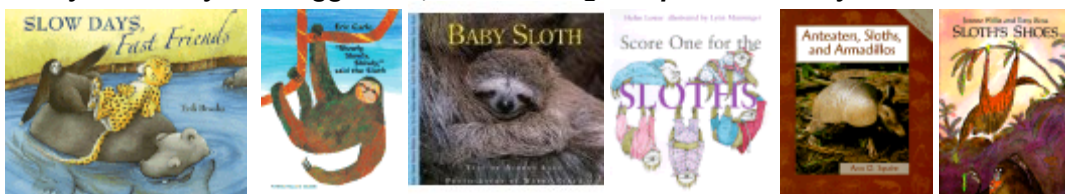


Slow Down – Read About the Sloth...

Since I've just returned from Manuel Antonio in Costa Rica where I saw a sloth, this had to be my next storytime suggestion, slow moving and perfect for lazy summer afternoons.



Titles:

Slow Days, Fast Friends by Erik Brooks
Slowly Slowly, Slowly, said the Sloth by Eric Carle
Baby Sloth by Aubrey Lang
Score One for the Sloths by Helen Lester
Anteaters, Sloths, and Armadillos by Anne Squire
Sloth's Shoes by Jeanne Willis



Extensions: This plush sloth is available from Nancy's Plush Toys and Gifts on Amazon.

Easy Craft:

Cut-out a simple tree shape. Glue to a background page and use all your old magazines to create a green, green jungle. Have kids draw a sloth sleepily hanging from a branch.

Simple Play:

Just be a sloth... try a slothy-yoga pose; if one of the poses in the Yoga Garden Game isn't a sloth it should be easy enough to create, lie down on your side with arms and legs hanging all in the same direction – move only slowly.

<http://zrecs.blogspot.com/2008/03/get-kids-moving-with-yoga-garden-game.html>

Poetry Corner:

You'll have to enjoy *Ode to the Sloth* by Theodore Roethke in Paper Zoo, ed. by Renee Karoll Weiss, illus. by Ellen Raskin.

*In moving-slow he has no Peer,
You ask him something in his Ear;
He thinks about it for a Year;*

*And, then, before he says a Word
There, upside down (unlike a Bird),
He will assume that you have Heard --*

*A most Ex-as-per-at-ing Lug.
But should you call his manner Smug,
He'll sign and give his Branch a Hug;*

Then off again to Sleep he goes,

*Still swaying gently by his Toes,
And you just know he knows he knows.*

Early Literacy Skills

Language and vocabulary: *sloth* – this is a wonderful word for the slow moving animal and also means a lazy person. Think of other words animals that have human behavior definitions: pig, for example. Delightful!

Phonological Awareness: *sl* and *th*: *sloths* are *slow*, can you *sleuth* out other *things* like *these*?

Letter knowledge: How many s words can you use to describe the sweet, slow, soft, sleepy, sloth?

Print Awareness: Look at the print choice for *Slow Days, Fast Friends*. Is the blocky print slower the swirly print faster to you. Eric Carle hangs his words on the page with the sloth. And look at the cover of *Score one for the Sloths*, the animal sit on and hang from the words. I love how the letters play. (Have kids look at their names in different fonts just for fun. Here's mine in WingDings – you know they'll ask... .)

Narrative Skills: My story of the sloth is seeing one in the jungle. Ask your readers to describe a slow sleepy time they have had or want to have like snow days or staying in their pajama days or maybe have them describe unusual animals they've encountered.

Print Motivation: What letters hang – g, y, p, q, like the sloth. Just wondering, just hanging around reading. Enjoy these slow reads together.