

## The Story of the Three Bears

*The Three Bears, or Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, is a very old folk tale. In many versions of the story, the three bears are a family: Papa Bear, Mama Bear, and Baby Bear. Children like the story because of the repetition and the entertaining voices that parents use when telling the story. The words “just right” and “too (hot)” are exaggerated for emphasis and for fun.

### **Words used to describe voices:**

*big, booming, rough, gruff, deep, loud*

*little, wee, high, shrill, sharp, high-pitched, squeaky*

**When you introduce yourself, tell your group if you are familiar with the story and if there is a similar story in your home country.**

***Have fun when you read the story! Exaggerate and use different voices for the characters. The underlined words will help you remember.***

Once upon a time there were Three Bears, who lived together in a house of their own in the woods. One of them was a Little Wee Bear; and one was a Middle-sized Bear, and the other was a Great Big Bear. They each had a bowl for their porridge: a little wee bowl for the Little Wee Bear; and a middle-sized bowl for the Middle-sized Bear, and a great big bowl for the Great Big Bear. And they each had a chair to sit in: a little wee chair for the Little Wee Bear; and a middle-sized chair for the Middle-sized Bear, and a great big chair for the Great Big Bear. And they each had a bed to sleep in: a little wee bed for the Little Wee Bear; and a middle-sized bed for the Middle-sized Bear, and a great big bed for the Great Big Bear. One morning they made porridge for breakfast and poured it into their bowls. But it was too hot to eat, so they took a walk in the woods until it cooled.

While the Three Bears were walking, a little girl named Goldilocks came to their house. First, she looked in at the window and then she peeked through the keyhole. Of course, there was nobody inside. Goldilocks turned the handle of the door. The door was not locked, because the Bears were trusting bears. They did no one any harm, and never thought any one would harm them, so Goldilocks opened the door and went in.

There was porridge on the table. It smelled very good! If she had been a thoughtful little girl, she would have waited till the Bears came home, and maybe they would have invited her to breakfast. But she was hungry and helped herself. First, she tasted the porridge of the Great Big Bear. But it was too hot. Then she tasted the porridge of the Middle-sized Bear. But it was too cold. Then she tasted the porridge of the Little Wee Bear. It was neither too hot nor too cold, but just right. Goldilocks liked it so much that she ate it all up.

Then Goldilocks went into the parlor to see what else she could find. First, she sat down in the chair of the Great Big Bear, but it was too hard. Then she sat down in the chair of the Middle-sized Bear, but it was too soft. Then she sat down in the chair of the Little Wee Bear. It was neither too hard nor too soft, but just right. Goldilocks liked it so much that she rocked and rocked until the bottom of the chair fell out! Down she went-plump! - onto the floor.

Goldilocks went into the bedroom where the Three Bears slept. First, she lay down upon the bed of the Great Big Bear. But that was too high at the head for her. Next, she lay down upon the bed of the Middle-sized Bear. But that was too high at the foot for her. Then she lay down upon the bed of the Little Wee Bear. It was neither too high at the head nor at the foot, but just right. Goldilocks liked it so much that she covered herself up and fell fast asleep.

By this time, the Three Bears thought their porridge would be cool enough, so they came home for breakfast. Goldilocks had left the spoon of the Great Big Bear in his porridge bowl. He noticed it, first thing. **“SOMEBODY HAS BEEN EATING MY PORRIDGE!”** said the Great Big Bear, in his great big voice. Goldilocks had left the spoon of the Middle-sized Bear in her porridge bowl, too. **“SOMEBODY HAS BEEN EATING MY PORRIDGE!”** said the Middle-sized Bear in her middle-sized voice. Then the Little Wee Bear looked at his bowl. **“SOMEBODY HAS BEEN EATING MY PORRIDGE AND HAS EATEN IT ALL UP!”** cried the Little Wee Bear in his little wee voice.

The Three Bears went into the parlor. Goldilocks had left the cushion crooked in the chair of the Great Big Bear. He noticed it, first thing. **“SOMEBODY HAS BEEN SITTING IN MY CHAIR!”** said the Great Big Bear, in his great big voice. Goldilocks had squashed down the cushion in the chair of the Middle-sized Bear. **“SOMEBODY HAS BEEN SITTING IN MY CHAIR!”** said the Middle Bear in her middle-sized voice. Then the Little Wee Bear looked at his chair, **“SOMEBODY HAS BEEN SITTING IN MY CHAIR AND HAS SAT THE BOTTOM OUT OF IT!”** cried the Little Wee Bear in his little wee voice.

The Three Bears went into their bedroom. Goldilocks had pulled the pillow of the Great Big Bear out of place. He noticed it, first thing. **“SOMEBODY HAS BEEN LYING IN MY BED!”** said the Great Big Bear in his great big voice. Goldilocks had pulled the blanket of the Middle-sized Bear out of place. **“SOMEBODY HAS BEEN LYING IN MY BED!”** said the Middle-sized Bear in her middle-sized voice. Then the Little Wee Bear looked at his bed. **“SOMEBODY HAS BEEN LYING IN MY BED – AND HERE SHE IS!”** cried the Little Wee Bear in his little wee voice.

This woke Goldilocks up at once. There were the Three Bears all staring at her. Goldilocks was so frightened that she tumbled out of bed and ran to the open window. Out she jumped and she ran away as fast as she could, never looking behind her. No one knows what happened to Goldilocks after that, but the Three Bears never saw her again.

*What is the moral of the story?*

*What do you think of the Goldilocks character? Do you think of her as a poor, hungry – perhaps homeless-child? Do you think of her as a spoiled child who does what she wants and takes what she pleases? Do you think of her as a curious child who misbehaves, but doesn't intend to do wrong?*

*The Three Bears do not lock their doors when they leave the house. They trust that no one will harm them. Did you grow up in a house that was always locked, or was your house often left unlocked? Has that changed?*

*Do you feel safe in your neighborhood? Do you know your neighbors? Does your community have activities so that neighbors can get to know each other and have fun together?*

*In the U.S., it is considered rude to enter a closed door of a home, bedroom, or office without knocking first and waiting for an answer. This does not include classrooms. Sometimes, the person will answer without opening the door. As children grow older, parents often knock on a child's bedroom door before entering. What are your customs about closed doors? Do you think parents should knock before entering a child's bedroom?*

*What do you do when someone that you do not know comes to your door?*

**Phrases for fluency:**

Help yourself- If someone tells you to “help yourself”, it is an invitation for you to take as much food as you would like to eat. It is not necessary to wait for someone to serve you. You might also hear this in situations that do not involve food.

FUMC ESL Teacher: We will take a break now. Please help yourself to the refreshments.

A: Can I borrow some DVDs?

B: Help yourself. Feel free to take whatever you want.

A: Are these books for sale?

B: No. They're free. Help yourself.

A: Do you have a tissue?

B: There's a box on my desk over there. Help yourself.

If you help yourself without permission, you may be considered rude: “My sister always goes in my room and helps herself to my favorite clothes. It makes me so mad!”

Mary just helped herself to the food I was preparing for dinner. I couldn't believe she took food without even asking.

Make yourself at home – If you are a guest in someone's home, they might tell you to “make yourself at home.” It means that they would like you to feel comfortable and relaxed as though you were in your own home. Often this is said when the host will not be in the room with you for awhile. It is an invitation for you to sit where you are comfortable, maybe watch TV or read a magazine, or to get yourself something to drink.

“Please make yourself at home while I finish getting ready. There is coffee in the kitchen if you would like some.”

“Goldilocks made herself right at home. Boy, was she rude!”

My door is always open- If a boss or teacher says “my door is always open,” it means that you are welcome to go to that person to discuss any problems or questions.

## Potential "Goldilocks" Planet Discovered

Scientists Express Excitement after Finding of Potentially Habitable "Earth-Like" Planet

CBS News Sept. 29, 2010

Astronomers say they have for the first time spotted a planet beyond our own in what is sometimes called the Goldilocks zone for life: Not too hot, not too cold. Juuuust right.

Not too far from its star, not too close. So it could contain liquid water. The planet itself is neither too big nor too small for the proper surface, gravity and atmosphere. It's just right. Just like Earth.

It's unknown whether water actually exists on the planet, and what kind of atmosphere it has. But because conditions are ideal for liquid water, and because there always seems to be life on Earth where there is water, one scientist said "chances for life on this planet are 100 percent."

Finding a planet that could potentially support life is a major step toward answering the timeless question: Are we alone?



