

GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST

STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

AGES

Children 3–8 years

Teens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A fun, low-cost event that is easy to modify to suit your library. Children come for a sleepover-themed storytime, bringing their favorite stuffed animal friends with them. They sign permission slips and name tags, and leave their stuffed animals overnight. After storytime, you might hold a stuffed animal show-and-tell, or have children draw portraits of their stuffed animals. When the children come back the next morning to pick them up, they see pictures of what their animal friends were up while they were gone. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes

The teen element to this program is an important part! Teens can be on hand to check-in animal guests and help children fill out permission slips. After the children leave, teen “babysitters” get creative in moving the animals around and taking pictures of their antics (e.g., hide-and-seek, climbing the stacks, watching DVDs, playing on tablets, drawing on the whiteboard, playing librarian, escaping the library, coloring, doing puzzles, reading books, etc.). Have teens compile and print a few pictures of each animal sleepover guest. Consider creating a slideshow of the pictures as well. The next morning, teens can talk about what the animals did and which animals were the troublemakers. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

This event is always a crowd-pleaser, so remember to post pictures on your library’s social media.

TIP:

The show-and-tell component could also be a fun multigenerational/family event, or you can use it as outreach to a local nursing home or pediatric hospital.

TIP:

To add a safety lesson, consider having some animals escape overnight and “get lost.” A deputy can bring those animals back to the library the next morning and give a talk about safety and staying close to caregivers.

TIP:

Consider adding a pizza party with a movie night to the drop-off event, or donuts and juice to the morning pick-up.

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MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- Permission slips and name tags (see Printables)
- Safety pins (or string) for the name tags
- Phone/camera(s) and a printer
- Blankets, pillows, and/or a tent for sleeping
- Optional: Food (pizza, popcorn, donuts, juice), a slideshow and projector, puzzles, games, movies, coloring sheets



Image Source: The Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Public Library



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UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

If you do not use teen volunteers, staff members will need to rearrange the animals and take pictures of them.

RESOURCES

Web

Customizable template for participation certificate: <https://bit.ly/2T07fdF>

Picture Books

Bear Snores On (2005) by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman

Bedtime for Sweet Creatures (2020) by Nikki Grimes

Chester Raccoon and the Almost Perfect Sleepover (2017) by Audrey Penn

Fancy Nancy: Saturday Night Sleepover (2016) by Jane O'Connor

Good Night Baby Dragons (2018) by Adam Gamble, Mark Jasper, and Suwin Chan

I Want My Hat Back (Hat Trilogy #1) (2011) by Jon Klassen

Maisy Goes on a Sleepover (2016) by Lucy Cousins

Mother Goose's Pajama Party (2015) by Danna Smith

Silly Lullaby (2019) by Sandra Boynton

Sleepover Duck! (2018) by Carin Bramsen

Time to Sleep, Sheep the Sheep! (2010) by Mo Willems

Uni's First Sleepover (2019) by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

Where's My Teddy? (2017) by Jez Alborough

OFFICIAL PERMISSION SLIP

STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

STUFFED ANIMAL NAME: _____

Age: _____

Allergies: _____

Favorite type of story: _____

Favorite game: _____

Special requests: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____

Phone number: _____

Hello! My name is

I belong to
