

Gorillas

Parents' Activity Sheet

Fingerplay/Activity

I'm a Gorilla

I'm a gorilla. (*squat down, knees bent, knuckles touching the floor*)
 I'm a great big ape.
 I sit like this,
 But I can stand up straight. (*stand up*)

 When I'm happy,
 I jump up and down. (*jump*)
 But when I'm mad,
 I have a scary frown. (*make a scowly face*)

 If you scare me, (*point to self*)
 Here's what I'll do— (*shake finger*)
 I'll beat my chest, (*beat chest with fists*)
 And try to scare you. (*point to someone else*)

Read the book, **Koko's Story** by Dr. Francine Patterson with your children. Learn some of the sign language that Koko used to communicate with people. Explain to your children that people talk this way when they cannot hear or speak.

Children are always fascinated by sign language. If **Koko's Story** sparks an interest in your children, check out a basic sign language book at the library. A good one for young children is **Sign for Me: Basic Sign Vocabulary for Children, Parents & Teachers** by Ben Bahan & Joe Dannis, J419.03.

Gorilla Snacks

Gorillas love fruit, especially bananas. Have your child help plan some banana and fruit snacks. Try bananas sliced lengthwise with peanut butter spread between. Make banana splits with your favorite ice cream or frozen yoghurt and toppings. Have sliced bananas on cereal. Try dried banana chips for snacks. Make banana muffins. Or make a fruit salad of any fresh or canned fruits you have. Call it Gorilla Gumbo.

Family Read Aloud Time

Check out a few of these gorilla books at the public library:

Willy the Champ by Anthony Browne E
Willy the Wimp by Anthony Browne E
Princess Gorilla and a New Kind of Water by Verna Aardema E
The Gorilla Did It by Barbara Shook Hazen E
Gorilla by Anthony Browne E
Little Gorilla by Ruth Bornstein E
Goodnight, Gorilla by Ruth Bornstein E
Barnaby and the Big Gorilla by Alain Leonard E
My Friend Gorilla by Atsuko Morozumi E
Koko's Story by Dr. Francine Patterson J599.88 OV

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