



# STORY TIME

## JO MACDONALD HIKED IN THE WOODS

### Story Time Description

Do you know the song “Old MacDonald Had a Farm”? Well if you do be sure to sing along in story time today. I’ll be reading “Jo MacDonald Hiked in the Woods” by Mary Quattlebaum. Jo is a little girl who hikes through the woods with her grandfather. On their exploration through the woods they encounter some wildlife of the woodland habitat. The author provides tons of ideas for activities and curriculum extensions about forest animals, woodland plants, trees, and ways to be safe while taking a walk through the woods/forest. Be sure to look for the squirrel on each page!

### Children’s Picture Books and Other Non-Fiction Books

- *Over in the Forest: Come and Take a Peek* by Marianne Berkes
- *Over in the Jungle: A Rainforest Rhyme* by Marianne Berkes
- *Over in the Grasslands: On an African Safari* by Marianne Berkes
- *Gray Squirrel at Pacific Avenue* by Geri Harrington
- *Tiny, Perfect Things* by M. H. Clark
- *The Busy Tree* by Jennifer Ward
- *One Small Place in a Tree* by Barbara Brenner
- *In the Quiet, Noisy Woods* by Michael Rosen
- *The Hike* by Alison Farrell
- *A Walk Through the Woods* by Louise Grieg
- *Explorers of the Wild* by Cale Atkinson
- *Home in the Woods* by Eliza Wheeler
- *Nature’s Wonders* by Alejandro Algarra
- *Finding Wild* by Megan Wagner Lloyd
- *Into the Outdoors* by Susan Gal
- *Greta the Great Horned Owl: A True Story of Rescue and Rehabilitation* by Christie Gove-Berg
- *Little Fox in the Forest* by Stephanie Graegin
- *What Forest Knows* by George Ella Lyon
- *Night, Night Forest Friends* by Annie Bach
- *Forest Bright, Forest Night* by Jennifer Ward

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- *Outside Your Window: A First Book of Nature* by Nicola Davies
- *Who Lives Here? Forest Animals* by Deborah Hodge
- *Smithsonian Kids: A Walk in the Forest* by Jaye Garnett
- *A Day in the Woods* by Ronald M. Fisher
- *A Walk in the Forest* by Maria Dek
- *Lost in the Woods: A Photographic Fantasy*
- *Forest Life and Woodland Creatures* by DK Publishing
- *Woodland and Forest: Explore Nature with Fun Facts and Activities* by DK Publishing
- *First Nature Encyclopedia* by DK Publishing
- *National Geographic Kids: In the Forest* by Shira Evans
- *A Forest Habitat* by Bobbie Kalman
- *Smithsonian Kids: A Walk in the Forest* by Jaye Garnett
- *Explore the Deciduous Forest* by Linda Tagliaferro
- *Animal Tracks and Signs* by Jinny Johnson
- *Wild Tracks* by Jim Arnosky

### **Other Useful Resources**

- <http://www.kidwings.com/owlpellets/flash> Great owl information for kids
- <http://www.nwf.org/wildlifewatch>
- <http://www.folkmanis.com> Folkmanis Puppets
- <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov>
- <http://www.bear-tracker.com/mammals> A great site to identify different animal tracks

### **The Basics: Virginia is for Learners**

[www.rvabasics.org](http://www.rvabasics.org)

The Basics are five fun, simple, and powerful ways to help all our children aged 0-3 grow to be happy and smart.

### **Baby Sign Language**

[www.babysignlanguage.com](http://www.babysignlanguage.com)

Wonderful sign language resources designed around the pedagogical needs of infants and toddlers. The resources are ideal for families and children of all ages.

### **National Geographic Little Kids Magazine**

<https://www.kidsnationalgeographic.com>

### **Ranger Rick Jr. Magazine**

<http://shopnwf.org/product/ranger-rick-junior>

Ranger Rick Jr.™ is packed with 36 pages of eye-popping animal photos, easy-to-follow text, fun animal facts, games and activities that inspire outdoor play.

***Common Native Trees of Virginia Identification Guide*** – You can purchase the book or download for free

[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)

### ***My First Book About Backyard Nature* by Donald M. Silver and Patricia J. Wayne**

This coloring book has 46 pages of illustrations — each accompanied by fact-filled captions — kids can combine the fun of coloring with the fascination of discovering how all kinds of living creatures are linked together.

### **Nature Play at Home**

[www.naturalearning.org](http://www.naturalearning.org) (download the guide)

Developed by the Natural Learning Initiative and the National Wildlife Federation, this guide shows easy, affordable ways you can turn your backyard or other types of domestic outdoor spaces into vibrant Nature Play Spaces™ for children so they can reap the physical and mental benefits of playing outside. Creating natural play opportunities can be part of the solution to increasing the amount of time kids spend in the great outdoors for the health of their minds, bodies, and spirits.

### **YouTube**

Watch the YouTube video submitted by Carrie Szwed from White Memorial Conservation Center as she introduces *Shakespeare*, a Barred Owl. There's another video from them introducing *Oscar*, a Great Horned Owl.

### **Discover the Forest**

[www.discovertheforest.org/resources](http://www.discovertheforest.org/resources)

A great collection of resources and videos.

### **Exploration – Take a Walk in Your Backyard and Neighborhood**

As you walk around your neighborhood or in your backyard listen to sounds and try to find out who is making them—a woodpecker tapping, a bird chirping, squirrels chattering, animals rustling leaves and digging. Look for signs of things living such as:

- Signs of animals up in the canopy of trees
- Decomposers under and around fallen logs
- Animal tracks in mud
- Animal life on trees, on the ground (animal tracks), animal droppings (scat)

### **Thing to do at Home to Reinforce a Positive Connection between Children and Nature**

- Use old calendars and magazines (for real images)
- Provide non-fiction books and concrete materials
- Take daily walks (have binoculars and magnify lens handy)
- Have plants in your yard that will attract pollinators
- Utilize the resources from this blog post