Once upon a time, there were three billy goats named “Gruff.” All three—Little Billy Goat Gruff, Middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff, and Great Big Billy Goat Gruff—liked to eat grass all day long.

One day, Great Big Billy Goat Gruff saw some rich, emerald-green grass across a wide, fast-flowing stream. “Mmmmm, look at the long green grass on the hill across the stream,” he said. The other two lifted their heads and sniffed the air. The sweet smell of the grass made their mouths water.

“But a mean troll lives under the bridge that crosses the stream. He will eat us if we dare to cross his bridge,” said Middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff.

Little Billy Goat Gruff, hungry and foolish, decided to try to cross the bridge anyway. Trip, trap, trip, trap, over the bridge he clomped. When he was halfway across, up jumped the nasty troll. “Who’s that crossing my bridge?” demanded the troll.

“It’s only me, the littlest Billy Goat Gruff,” whimpered Little Billy Goat Gruff. “Please don’t eat me. My brother is much bigger than I am. He will make a taster meal for you.”

The troll thought about what Little Billy Goat Gruff had said and replied, “Be off with you then.”

A few minutes later, Middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff began to cross the bridge. Trip, trap, trip, trap, over the bridge he clomped. When he was halfway across, up jumped the wicked troll. “Who’s that crossing my bridge?” demanded the troll.

“It’s me, Middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff. I wish to cross the bridge to get to the rich green grass.”

“I’m going to gobble you up,” bellowed the troll.

But Middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff pleaded with the troll to let him pass. “Wait for my brother, Great Big Billy Goat Gruff. He will make a large and satisfying meal for you.”

The troll decided to let Middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff pass and to wait for the goat’s big brother. “Be off with you then,” he shouted.

A few minutes later, Great Big Billy Goat Gruff began to cross the bridge. Trip, trap, trip, trap, over the bridge he clomped on his big heavy hooves. When he was halfway across the bridge, up jumped the wicked troll. “Who’s that crossing my bridge?” demanded the troll.

“It’s me, Great Big Billy Goat Gruff. I am crossing the bridge to join my brothers and eat the sweet green grass on the hill.”

“Your brothers can eat their fill of grass, but I am going to eat you up!” roared the troll.

“Oh no you’re not!” thundered the biggest Billy Goat Gruff. He lowered his sharp horns and charged at the troll, knocking him high into the air. The troll came down into the stream with a mighty splash. The swift water quickly carried him far, far away never to be seen again.

From that day on, the three billy goats Gruff crossed the bridge whenever they wished to munch the sweet green grass.
The classic folk tale, *Three Billy Goats Gruff*, provides many opportunities for fun learning activities during your Storybook Camp.

**Science**

**Growing Grass**
Grass is easy and fast to grow. Provide grass seed, potting soil, and a disposable cup. Your child should fill the cup about halfway with soil, scatter grass seeds on top, and cover them lightly with more soil. Keep the soil moist but not too wet. As the grass grows, your child will enjoy watering it and keeping it trimmed with scissors.

**Getting to Know Goats**
Introduce your child to the facts about goats with simple nonfiction books. Talk with children about where goats usually live, what they like to eat, the sounds they make, and their characteristics such as horns and hooves. Discuss how the Billy Goats Gruff are alike and different from real goats.

**Math**

**Building Bridges**
Provide blocks, boxes, and other construction toys for your child to build bridges. Encourage math vocabulary as he or she describes, measure, compares, and estimates during the construction activity.

**Three's the Charm**
Focus on the number three. Read other stories, such as *Three Little Pigs* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, or recite a rhyme such as *Three Little Kittens*. Have your child draw a picture of three of the same thing. Label each drawing: 3 chairs, 3 bears, 3 flowers, etc. Gather the illustrations into a book about the number three.

**Size Wise**
Have your child sort objects or pictures of objects by size: small, medium, and large.

**Language Arts**

**“G” is for Goat**
Encourage your child to draw pictures of things that begin with the letter *G* such as goat, gate, garden, game, gift, girl, gum, etc. Supplement the illustrations with pictures found in magazines and newspapers. Gather your child's illustrations into a book about the letter *G*. 
Three Billy Goats Gruff

You and your child can make a Story Stick to retell the story. Here’s how:

1. Provide crayons or markers for your child to color the story pieces.
2. Help your child cut along the dotted lines, or cut them out yourself.
3. **To make a Story Stick:** Attach the fuzzy side of a strip of Velcro® or Velcro® stickers to a paint stirrer. Then affix the story images to the remaining bristly side. Have your child arrange the story pieces in sequence on the Story Stick. Then have him/her retell the story using the stick.