

## Snooze, A Helpful Guide for Sleepy Owls Eilidh Muldoon (Little Door Books)

Eilidh Muldoon's lovely new book *Snooze* is full of interesting noises and so lends itself very well to turning into an engaging sensory story for children with additional needs. If you would like to put together your own sensory story pack ahead of joining in with the *Snooze* story time at the online Wigtown Book Festival here are some ideas. Links are only suggestions, all of these props are available on many different websites

Introduce the story with an **owl noise**. This owl toy makes a noise if squeezed:

<https://shopping.rspb.org.uk/singing-soft-toys/rspb-soft-toy-singing-tawny-owl.html?ClickType=Text&ListType=&ListName=&Position=5&tracking=searchterm:owl+toy>

Or you could use an **owl hoot whistle** if you are not going to be sharing the props:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Flights-of-Fancy-BRDLO-E241/dp/B009PKX1KC/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?dchild=1&keywords=owl+hoot&qid=1599477363&sr=8-4](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Flights-of-Fancy-BRDLO-E241/dp/B009PKX1KC/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=owl+hoot&qid=1599477363&sr=8-4)

Use a **cosy blanket** when you get to the phrase 'nice and comfortable'. Shake this out and lay it over the child you are reading to.

For the **geese** try: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sport-Pet-PetSport-Goose-Toy/dp/B00GIBTFZG/ref=sr\\_1\\_59?dchild=1&keywords=goose+honk&qid=1599475164&sr=8-59](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sport-Pet-PetSport-Goose-Toy/dp/B00GIBTFZG/ref=sr_1_59?dchild=1&keywords=goose+honk&qid=1599475164&sr=8-59)

I have not tried this myself but according to the description it honks like a real goose!

These buzzers make very good **dog and rooster noises**: <https://specialneedstoys.com/uk/farmyard-answer-buzzers-auditory-sensory-toy.html>

Bang on a **drum** for the woodpecker.

Try using a large **see-through yellow scarf** or piece of fabric for the sunshine. You could drape this right over the head of the child you are reading to, if they enjoy that kind of thing:

<https://www.myriadonline.co.uk/product/sarahs-silks-playsilks/>

A **music box** might work well for the 'soothing lullaby': <https://www.houseofkids.com/tin-music-box.html>

Perhaps you could record the phrase 'keep the noise down' on to a **voice recorder switch**: <https://specialneedstoys.com/uk/sound-bank-write.html>. The child you are reading to could then be encouraged to push the switch at the right time.

Tuck the **blanket** around the child again as you say 'cosy and relaxed'...

And finish off with a lovely **snoring noise** that you can feel as well as hear:

<https://specialneedstoys.com/uk/vibrating-pouch.html>

Most of these prop suggestions can be wiped clean with disinfectant. The blanket and scarf could be left out of the story. The goose and owl could be used by the reader but not shared with the child(ren). And the 'snorer' could be used without its fabric case. (As with all the prop suggestions this should only be shared with a child under close adult supervision.)

As you tell the story be sure to make a strong contrast between the quiet parts and the noisy parts. Use a quiet calm voice for phrases like 'listen to something soothing' and then a loud voice (with sound effects) for the noisy interruptions. You could also add in your own comments to aid the child's understanding e.g. 'That's not dark, is it! That's bright sunshine!'