



Bedtime for Benji

"But Mo-om, I'm not sleepy," whined Benji. "I don't wa-ant to go to bed right now."

Momma Black Bear sighed. She had already raised six baby bears who were now adults. Some of her other cubs didn't like bedtime either. She knew what she needed to do to convince Benji that going to bed on time was important.

"Okay Benji," Momma Black Bear said. "Since you aren't sleepy you can stay outside but I am going to bed." With that she went inside the warm and cozy bear den with Benji's brother Bart.

Benji decided to watch the stars and the moon. Then he began to hear strange noises. Soon Momma Raccoon came by with her young triplets. "What are you doing up so late?" she asked Benji. "Bears are supposed to sleep at night."

Next Momma Possum waddled by. "Benji," she said, "You were supposed to be asleep a long time ago. How will you grow into a great big bear if you don't get enough sleep?"

A little while later the wise old owl stopped by to visit Benji. Mr. Owl told Benji stories about raising his own baby owls. Benji learned that all the parent animals knew what was good for their babies.

Momma Black Bear was right. Benji needed to go to bed at bedtime. He went in the den and snuggled close with Bart.