Parent Child Interactive Literacy Lesson Plan for  
*Good Night, Good Knight*

**Name of Activity:** Good Knight Quest: An Obstacle Course  
**Students Participating: size of group:** Any size group of children and their families appropriate to your learning space

**Lesson Goal:** Children and their families will engage in an obstacle course that involves integrating various literacy skills with physical movement.

**Learning Objectives/Skills:** During the obstacle course the adult learners will be able to:  

a) encourage children to write a letter at each station.  

b) encourage children to read words at the station signs and on the quest checklist.  

c) engage children in using story words and ideas from the book *Good Night, Good Knight*.  

d) encourage turn-taking while waiting at the quest stations.

**Environmental Adaptations, Time & Materials Needed:**  
The following activities can be adapted to different situations. This activity is best suited for a large open space like a multipurpose room, gym, or outdoor play area. The activities will take approximately **40-75 minutes** depending on students. There should be enough activity stations available for the obstacle course to cut down on long wait times. The following materials will be needed:

- Obstacle course equipment. Select sturdy and safe equipment (try it out first) to create an obstacle course. Choose equipment that allows for a variety of physical movements such as climbing, jumping, galloping, balancing, crawling, and moving over, under and around objects. See suggestions for obstacle course stations.
- Printed labels for obstacle course stations.  
- Quest checklists-- one per child, and extras for adults who might enjoy having their own.  
- Pencils, markers, or pens for writing on the Quest maps.  
- Masking tape  
- Colored pencils or crayons for coloring family stickers.  
- Good Knight family crest stickers—one per checklist.  
- Book: *Good Night, Good Knight*.  
- Song Sheet: *Good Knight Lullaby*.  
- Optional: copies of the featured book for each family to take home.  
- Optional: small tables or clip boards for children to write on—at least two boards per station.  
- Optional: pencil holders for extra writing implements at each station.  
- Optional: materials for children and families to read while they are waiting at the stations: knight-theme books (both fiction and nonfiction), knight-theme poems and songs.

**Procedure/Description of the Activity:**  
I. Preparation of the environment. Set up the obstacle course as activity stations. Place a label at each station that best matches a phrase from the book: “Climb down the very tall tower” for the steps of a step stool, “jump on the horse” for jumping into a hula hoop, “gallop through the king’s forest” for galloping or skipping the length of a jump rope taped to the floor, “climb up the tall wall” for standing on a small stepladder, and “tucked into bed” for crawling into a sleeping bag. Add more stations or duplicates as appropriate for the number of participants.
2. Choose an area in view of the obstacle course for families to gather as they enter. Explain that the children will soon become knights and will follow a quest similar to the Good Knight in the book they are going to hear. Explain that at each station, there will be three activities for the knights to do. These include a label for parents and children to read together, “Let’s see what this says?,” a quest task (e.g., “jump on the horse”) for the children to do, and a special letter for children to write down on their quest checklists. Show families an example of the family crest sticker that they will receive at the end, to show that they have completed the quest. Point out to families that they may do the stations in any order to ease waiting time at stations.

3. Read the story, Good Night, Good Knight. Tell families that they will need to listen to the story very closely because the story gives clues to the different activities they will have to do on their quests. After the story, give each child a quest checklist and a pencil or pen for writing. Point out the activity stations that match the items on the quest checklist. Prompt parents to help their children find and touch the words on the quest checklist and the spaces to write the featured letters. Remind families that they do not need to follow a specific order, but encourage each family to visit each different station at least once in order to fill out the entire quest checklist.

4. Guide families as they engage in the Quest.
   a. Help direct families to less busy stations for better traffic flow.
   b. Affirm families’ efforts to go through all three steps.
   c. Stop some children and ask if you can read their maps to see what they have done. Praise children for their letter writing.
   d. When children have trouble writing, demonstrate ways to support their attempts (make dotted letters, write lightly so the children can write on top of those letters, write the beginning of the word and just ask the children to finish a letter or line.)
   e. For families with very young children, suggest that the parents print the letters, saying them aloud.
   f. Model use of the story words and ideas as children participate and watch their friends participate: “Look at Susie “galloping through the forest.”
   g. Optional: encourage families to use any wait time at an activity station for reading poems or singing songs or decorating their quest checklists.

5. Wrap-up: Call families to the gathering area, and pass out Good Knight family crest stickers to complete the quest checklists. Congratulate the children on completing their quests. Praise children for their writing. Provide colored pencils so the children can add decorations to their quest checklists during the discussion time. Engage the families in a discussion using open-ended questions like “Do you think knights were patient people?” “Why do you think so?” “What was your favorite quest task?” “What did you like about it?” “What did you observe when your child was trying to write?” “How did your child respond when you encouraged him/her to write?” Conclude the session with the song, Good Night Lullaby.
### Assessment:

**For Informal Assessment**

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<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Participant’s Names</th>
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<tbody>
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### Reflect on the Activity:

1. What worked well?
2. What didn’t work?
3. What might have made the activity more successful?
4. Did you notice any potential for follow-up activities based on what the students said or did?

**Transfer Home Ideas:** Send copies of the book home for re-reading. Discuss ways to build an obstacle course and play the Quest game at home.

**Literacy Area(s)* Addressed** (check all that apply):

- The Power and Pleasure of Literacy
- Phonological Awareness
- Letters and Words
- Building Knowledge & Comprehension
- Fluency
- The Literate Environment
- Phonemic Awareness
- Vocabulary
- Reading Comprehension
- Multiple Literacy
- Language Development
- Types of Text
- Knowledge of Print
- Motivation

* from National Center for Family Literacy’s *Building Strong Readers* and *Learning to Read and Write*
Suggestions for Your Obstacle Course

Select a large space for a setting up your obstacle course like a gym, multipurpose, large classroom, or outdoor yard.

Use a selection of sturdy and safe equipment to create an obstacle course: step stools, chairs, jump ropes, cones, empty trash cans, large empty boxes to crawl through, tunnels, tents, hula hoops, ramps, large blocks, yardsticks, sleeping bags, oversized pajama tops, pillow cases, etc. The equipment should allow for a variety of physical movement including: climbing, jumping, galloping, balancing, and crawling.

Set up the obstacle course as activity stations to perform the specific physical activities. Check all of the equipment for safety.

Tape an obstacle course label to each activity station with the phrase that best fits a type of activity that the knight performed from the book *Good Night, Good Knight*. Use your creativity and your knowledge of what your families would enjoy doing in planning the activity stations. Here are some ideas to spark your imagination:

1. Crumbly Tumbly Tower – Step up and down a step stool or inverted rocking boat or extra large maple window blocks
2. Very Tall Wall – Climb up and down a sturdy box or climber or 3 step stepladder
3. Jump on Horse – jump up and down through a series of hula hoops set out in a hopscotch pattern or ride a yard stick horse along a length of jump rope
4. King’s Forest – gallop between cones set out in a slalom pattern or along a length of masking tape on the floor in a zigzag pattern
5. Deep Dark Cave – crawl through a large carton or tunnel or tent
6. Tuck into Bed – crawl through a large sleeping bag that is unzipped along the bottom edge so it is like a tunnel or use pillow cases for a sack race type jumping around a baby doll bed
7. Drink Water – carry a 3 oz paper cup of water across a balance beam and drink it at the end (put only a teaspoon or two of water in the cup)
8. Read Story – put on an oversize pajama top and read a story in your book center or provide a rocking chair and some books
9. Sing Song – sing a silly song in your music center while dancing with a bean bag on your head or do a mini marching band parade around a CD/tape player with rhythm instruments
Provide pencils or crayons and a firm writing surface like a table or clipboard so children can write the featured letter on their obstacle course checklists as well as decorate their checklist while they wait for their turn at an activity station.

Decorate your activity stations with flyers or table tents with the knight themed poems and songs that families can read while they wait their turn at an activity station.
Crumbly Tumbly Tower
Deep Dark Cave
Drink
Water
Jump on Horse
King's Forest
Read Story
Sing Song
Tuck into Bed
Very Tall Wall
Good Night Lullaby
(Based on the tune Good Night Ladies)
Personalize the song by changing the name dragons to Good Knight, children, or your child’s name.

Good night, dragons,
Good night, dragons,
Good night, dragons,
It’s time to say good night.

Good night, dragons,
Good night, dragons,
Good night, dragons,
It’s time to drink your water.

Good night, dragons,
Good night, dragons,
Good night, dragons,
It’s time to read your story.

Good night, dragons,
Good night, dragons,
Good night, dragons,
It’s time to sing your song.

Good night, dragons,
Good night, dragons,
Good night, dragons,
It’s time to kiss good night.

You can also personalize the song’s bedtime routine by adding verses with a different last line. Here are some suggestions:

…It’s time to brush your teeth.  …It’s time to hug your teddy.
…It’s time to wear pajamas.  …It’s time to get in bed.
# Quest Checklist

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When you’re done put your sticker HERE!