Busy Little Squirrel
The leaves have started to fall. The air is cold. Squirrel needs to get ready for winter. He cannot nibble with the mice. He does not have time to hop with the frogs or run with the dogs. But there is one thing he can do!

**Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 200L (What's this?)
Hardcover: 32 pages
Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (August 28, 2007)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0689873417
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Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review:  4.5 out of 5 stars  See all reviews (39 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #52,643 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  #38 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life  #215 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels  #532 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature
Age Range: 2 - 8 years
Grade Level: Preschool - 3

**Customer Reviews**

We have a lot of squirrels around the house and my granddaughters love to watch their antics. This book gave them some insight into how a squirrel lives when he isn’t chasing his buddies up and down the trees and jumping onto roofs and doing other fun acrobatics with his pals. There are discussion points about what squirrel does in the winter, where does he live, how does he store his food and more. The illustrations are large and colorful and the dialogue simple; the two to four year old crowd at our house loves it!

My daughter is 17 months old, and she just loves this story. It’s a simple book, but there is a cute story for her to follow. She loves that as the busy squirrel (who is collecting a variety of food for fall) runs by each animal, she can hear me read the animal noise: "squeek, sweet, croak, meow, woof, and hoo-hoo." She likes to repeat these noises. She also gets to see all the different food that
squirrel collects: apples, seeds, berries, nuts, and corn. I think that it is a great little first-learning book. The illustrations are beautiful too!! I highly recommend this book. I am always looking for books that are engaging and teach something that tell a story (as opposed to books that just have a picture and a name of something on each page). This fits the bill!

The Little Busy Squirrel is a simple tale about a squirrel getting ready for winter. He collects acorns, berries and corn as the animals ask him to spend time with him. But he’s too busy! The story has nice word repetition (think of "Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Eric Carle") and wonderful illustrations. We enjoyed finding the bugs amid the pictures and talking about the different animals. Our personal favorite bird is a cardinal so my boys were thrilled to see it here.

I thought the story might be too simple for my six year old but he loved thinking about why we see the squirrels in our yard running about. He was concerned letting out dog out into the yard because he didn’t want her to get in the way of the squirrels doing their job. What more could you ask for from a book?

MY TWO CENTS:
The Busy Little Squirrel is a delightful book for toddlers, preschoolers and beginning readers that has engaging illustrations and teaches children about hibernation.

The bright illustrations and spare text make this a perfect choice for fall story times, especially for the youngest of preschoolers. The author does a masterful job of introducing squirrels while also telling a really cute story. The squirrel often times seems larger than life as he bustles about getting ready for winter. He can’t join any of the animals who call out to him because he’s got things to do. The final panel showing the squirrel fast asleep gives a perfect opportunity to introduce hibernation and the coming winter. A big recommend for both it’s succinct text and beautiful illustrations. This one needs to be part of every permanent story time collection.

My daughter and I love this book. She wants to read it every day and has it almost memorized and it’s one of the few that I actually don’t mind reading over and over. The pictures are really pretty too and my daughter likes to look for different things in the background of the pictures.

This a simple story of a squirrel preparing for the upcoming winter. The repetitive line “but squirrel was too busy” allows young children to predict what will happen next, which is an important pre-reading skill. I recommend this book for both home and classroom libraries.

I love the illustrations and the "busy" theme. The only pictures that don’t look real are the bales of
hay. It took 3 adults to agree that was what they were. There is repetition in the story, great for early readers who like to chime in. I like the fact that the squirrel collects his winter food throughout the story while other animals want him to play. But he is too busy!

I haven’t had a chance to present this to my class of mild special needs preschoolers but I think they are going to love it. It’s a simple story with lovely, clear illustrations of familiar animals. addendum: My class was less than excited, but I’ll try again next fall. I still think it’s lovely and it might have been my reading.

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