Sally Weans From Night Nursing

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Sally Weans From Night Nursing

Written by Leslie Mitchell, NSW

Illustrated by Leslie Mitchell and Joanna Herndon

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A book for older babies, toddlers, and children that colorfully details what a child might experience in the process of weaning from night nursing. Sally Weans From Night Nursing encourages the gradual process of weaning without absolutes or judgements regarding when a child "should" wean. This book helps to validate the child’s feelings associated with change and leads mother and child through to a new phase in their relationship. As a prior mental health therapist, (MSW, LCSW-inactive stay at home mom) I believe that when a child’s feelings are validated and acknowledged, their emotional distress is significantly reduced. When a mother is ready, this book can be read to her child several times throughout the day in preparation for night weaning. The characters and circumstances in this book can then be discussed to help comfort and validate a child struggling with weaning. When I used this book to night wean my 18 month old daughter, I would mention the character Sally to remind my daughter that we needed to go back to sleep until the morning "like Sally." This book can help a child understand that although the end of night nursing may be upsetting, there are also many benefits to getting a good night sleep. As I wrote this book to help my daughter night wean, there is a detailed description of what I did, how I felt, and how I prepared for this event. My daughter was night weaned after 4 nights and then we had a messy strawberry shortcake celebration with homemade whip cream!

Book Information
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Customer Reviews
My daughter loves the pictures in this book, so we’re keeping it. I love how it conveys nursing in a family bed with the mattress on the floor, just like we do. However, the tenses in this book are
constantly shifting, from past, present, to future, with no apparent reason. My daughter loves the colorful pictures and really seemed to resonate with this book right away (I began with reading it to her from the online pages available, and right away I knew I should by the book). My daughter also really resonates with "Sally" as a real girl, and talks about her - it's nice that this is a story about someone else, but someone who is similar enough to my daughter that she really identifies with and cares for. Downsides: The pictures are really crude and rudimentary. I may actually end up editing the book a little in order to make it less annoying to myself each time I read it! I also worry that the different big emotions that Sally feels (sadness, anger) are reinforcing the idea of upset with my daughter, so that she is more likely to get panicked or upset about the idea of weaning rather than expecting it to be an easeful process. Children are so impressionable! But, she really actually likes this book better than "Nursies When the Sun Shines," which is way more lyrical, soothing, and just plain beautiful artistically. So, I bought both: one book for her (this one), one book for me (NWTSS). FYI my girl is 22 months and we have played around a little with weaning, but have not gone there fully yet. Just reading for preparation. Buying these books and reading the advice in them, as well as seeing my daughter's reaction to the start of weaning, has caused me to pull away from it. I was being influenced by others to do it now, but we're just not ready.

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