

Beyond the Book Activities

Grouchy Ladybug By Eric Carle

Parents/Caregivers: Why do books matter? It all comes down to ABCs.

- **A child deserves to be prepared:** Educators emphasize that reading with your preschool child is one of the most important activities to prepare them for kindergarten.
- **Books are essential:** Studies by the National Assessment of Educational Progress organization have consistently found that the more reading material available in the home, the better students' reading levels are likely to be.
- **Cost of children not being prepared:** According to the Wilder Research, in Minnesota, the cost of children entering kindergarten unprepared is approximately \$113 million annually to school systems due to increased:
 - Student aid
 - Special education and grade repetition
 - Teacher related costs
 - Impact on school safety due to delinquent behavior

Utilize the following activities to take you and your child(ren) beyond the book you just read.

These activities were developed through the cooperation of United Way Success By 6, Marshall Lyon County Public Library and Marshall ECFE Little Cubs.

Supplies Needed

Activity 1

- Covered boxes wrapped in white or brown paper
 - Cereal
 - Macaroni & cheese
 - Other dry food boxes
- Markers
- Crayons

Activity 2

- Velcro
- Black construction paper
- Scissors

Activity 3

- Velcro
- Black construction paper
- Scissors

***Read book before getting ready for each activity.**

Activity 1: Your Own City

Supplies you'll need: Various sized boxes (cereal, mac & cheese, or other dry food boxes) wrapped in white or brown paper, markers and/or crayons

Directions:

- Cover the boxes with white or brown paper.
- Ask your child to decorate the covered boxes to look like apartment buildings, skyscrapers, etc.
- Have your child use the decorated boxes to create a city.
- Ask your child what each building is and what happens there.
- Let them drive cars throughout the city. OPTIONAL: Consider saving the boxed city for play during other times. 😊

Activity 2: Little Red Bug

Supplies you'll need: Ladybug (provided), Little Red Bug Poem (provided), Velcro, black construction paper, scissors

Directions:

- Draw and cut out small circles from the construction paper. Apply Velcro to the circles and to the ladybug.
- Place the ladybug on a table or floor.
- As you recite the “Little Red Bug” poem, have your child add the “spots.”

**Little Red Bug
By Susan M. Paprocki**

Little red bug, oh so cute,
Here's a black spot for your suit.
Now you go and have some fun
With your spot, your very first one.

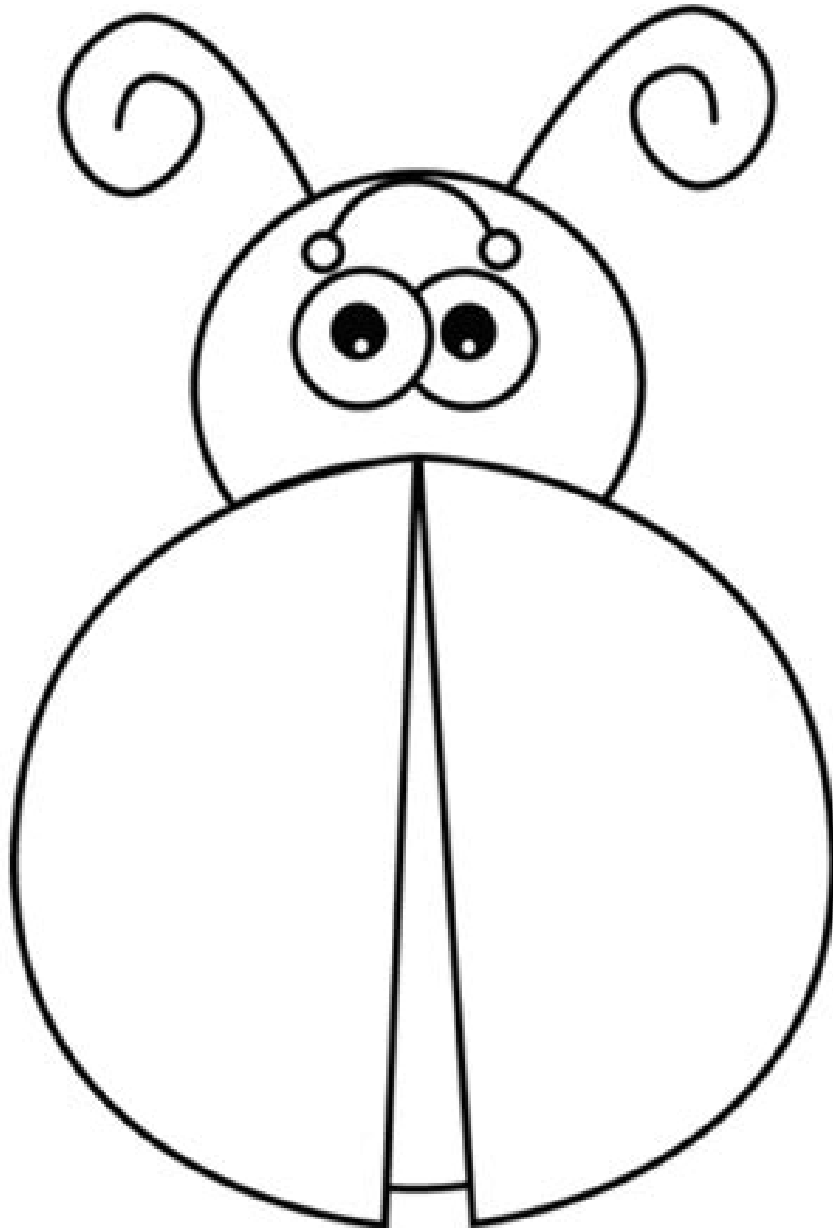
Little red bug, oh so cute,
Here's a black spot for your suit.
It's so nice to own a few,
So enjoy these lovely two.

Little red bug, oh so cute,
Here's a black spot for your suit.
We are very pleased to see
How nice you look with all three.

Little red bug, oh so cute,

Here's a black spot for your suit.
You might feel that you need more,
So we proudly give you four.

Little red bug, oh so cute,
Here's a black spot for your suit.
Heaven, heaven, sakes alive,
Look at you, you're wearing five!



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Activity 3: Counting Spots

Supplies you'll need: Supplies from Activity 2

Directions:

- Give your child a ladybug and some spots.
- Ask your child to put a specific number of spots on the ladybug.
- Optional: Talk about addition and subtraction. Ask them to add one or two spots and then tell you how many the ladybug has now. Do the same with subtraction.