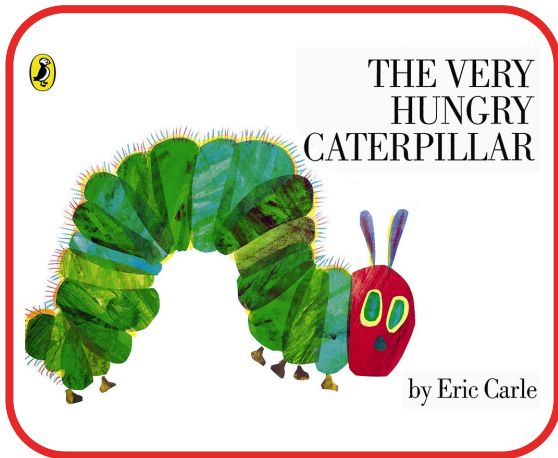




The Very Hungry Caterpillar: Activity Guide



Read for the Record 2009: The Very Hungry Caterpillar

On October 8, 2009, over 1 million readers of all ages from around the world came together for Jumpstart's fourth annual Read for the Record to share *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*—and what a celebration it was! Adults and children gathered in living rooms, classrooms, libraries, parks, and countless community spaces to read together, proving once again that when communities read together, they grow together.



Welcome & Warm Up



Welcome & Warm Up (10 Minutes): Get ready for fun! Provide props in the play area that tie to the story—butterflies, caterpillars and other bugs, fruits, vegetables, and garden toys. This should be an open time for children to play and relax during the playdate.

Reading Tips from Jumpstart: Bring the story to life!

You want to move at a good pace and avoid pausing on every page, but here are some suggestions for things you can say and do during reading to make it more engaging. You can use these during one-on-one reading, too!

Pictures Tell Stories:

Use the illustrations to talk about what you see, why characters act the way they do, and how they feel.

What's that Word?

When you come across new words, explain what they mean using simple language that kids can understand. (See “New Words” section).

Make it a conversation!

Listen carefully and let children do the talking.





Story Time

Story Time (10 Minutes): Who doesn't love story time? Gather the children around in a circle to read this week's book. Find a spot where all the children can sit together comfortably.

Prep & Set up:

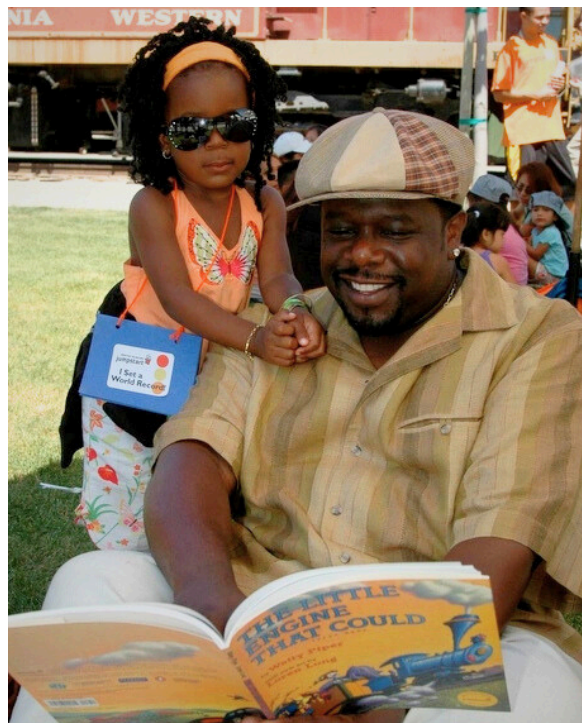
- **Practice First.** Read the book a few times before reading it to your playgroup. Practice using different voices and intonation to engage children in the story. Review New Words so you can effectively highlight them while you read.
- Can you see me? Invite children to sit in a horseshoe facing you so that they can each see you. Ask parents to sit behind their child. Hold the book so children can see the illustrations as you read.
- Enjoyment is the aim! It is likely the first time children will hear this story. Read at a comfortable pace, read with expression, and pause to comment on illustrations or introduce a new word. Don't worry about getting through the book efficiently; the goal is enjoyment.

New Words for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carl

(Child-friendly definitions to explain new words to children)

- **Tiny:** very, very small
- **Caterpillar:** looks like a hairy worm with lots of legs
- **Nibble:** to take very little bites of something
- **Cocoon:** a small house the caterpillar makes to sleep and grow

Act it out! There are also words that can be demonstrated by action or with your voice to help children understand their meaning – jerk, snorted, bellowed, and sigh are just a few.



During the story:

- Begin reading the story right away.
- Read the story expressively to draw children in.
- Make comments to help children understand tone, events, and characters.
- Define the vocabulary words after reading each word in the story.
- Listen for children's comments or questions and respond briefly to confirm or clarify.
- Provide information to extend children's understanding.
- Use a felt board and add to the board the different items the caterpillar eats.





Activity #1: Caterpillar Sock Puppet

Overview: Adults and children discuss the anatomy of a caterpillar. Children have the opportunity to manipulate various materials to make a caterpillar sock puppet.

Preparation: Medium

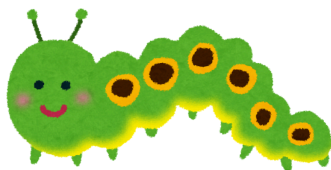


Materials

- Variety of adult sized socks
- Material for stuffing
- A collection of art materials: pom poms, pipe cleaners, googly eyes, glitter glue
- Scissors
- Markers

Preparation

- Arrange all materials on a table or flat working surface.
- Pour glue into the paper cups and place a few popsicle sticks in it for spreading the glue.



- **Learning Focus:** Storytelling with puppets helps children develop reading comprehension skills.

Activity

1. Begin by talking about the physical attributes of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Ask children “How does a caterpillar move?”
2. Tell the children that today they will be creating their own sock puppet to look like The Very Hungry Caterpillar.
3. Explain that when they are finished they can use the puppet to retell the story or make up new stories.
4. Using the sock, children can use the various materials to transform the sock into a caterpillar puppet.
5. Encourage children to add eyes, antennae, and other individual characteristics to make their caterpillar. Allow children the opportunity to choose what they want their caterpillar to look like.
6. After the puppets are created, use them to retell The Very Hungry Caterpillar or create a new story with the children.

Tips for Conversation

- Engage in conversation about their puppet’s uniqueness. Say, “Tell me about your puppet” You can also ask children questions like, “What will your caterpillar do?” or “What do you think your caterpillar’s favorite food is?”
- Encourage children to retell the story or create a new story using their puppet.



Activity #2: My Antennae

Overview: Children will be given a variety of materials to create antennae like The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Children have the opportunity to re-enact the story.

Preparation: Low



Materials

- Multiple copies of The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Variety of pipe cleaners (color, width)
- A variety of art materials: tissue paper, pom-poms (for the top of the antennae)
- Plastic containers to organize material

Preparation

- Place materials in plastic containers and spread around the table



- **Learning Focus:** Children learn a new word, antennae, strengthening their vocabulary, and are engaged in creative thinking and problem solving.

Activity

- Look at the cover of the book with children and begin by asking children to recall what The Very Hungry Caterpillar looks like; in particular call out the antennae.
- Invite children to create their own antennae using the materials provided.
- Provide children with available materials and let them make the antennae and then figure out how to attach the antennae to the headband.
- Help the child create a headband that fits.
- Adults should provide children with support as needed throughout the activity.
- Children can wear the antennae and recreate or reenact the story as the caterpillar.

Tips for Conversation

- Engage in conversation with children about how they will twist and connect the pipe cleaners to the headband.
- Discuss how the caterpillar uses its antennae and how this substitutes for how people use their senses.
- Vocabulary: antennae, twist, senses



Activity #3: Eye Dropper Paintings

Overview: Adults and children create butterfly wands with liquid watercolors. Children have the opportunity to experiment with the mixing of various colors.

Preparation: Medium-High

Materials

- Eye droppers
- Liquid watercolors
- Paint containers
- Staplers
- Wands (can be cut if desired)
- Diffusing paper butterfly shapes



Preparation

- Place cups on the tables, evenly spaced
- Pour watercolors into cups, do not make them too full
- Place four or more eyedroppers in each cup
- Make sure the butterfly tissue shapes are ready to handout
- Staple the wand to the butterfly multiple times

- **Learning Focus:** Using common materials helps children follow rules such as sharing and taking turns. Using eye droppers helps children develop fine motor skills.

Activity

- Begin by talking about the physical attributes of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Ask children “What did the butterfly start out as?” and “How did the change from a caterpillar to a butterfly happen?”
- Tell the children that today they will be creating their own butterfly.
- Explain that when they are finished they can put the butterfly up in their home.
- Using the eye droppers, the children can paint the butterfly templates with liquid watercolors.
- Support the children in using the eye droppers, and encourage them to notice the color mixing.
- Allow children the opportunity to choose what they want their butterfly to look like.



Tips for Conversation

- Engage in conversation about their butterfly’s uniqueness. For example, say “Tell me about your butterfly.”
- You can also ask children questions about colors, like “What do you think will happen if you mix red with yellow?”



Color the Caterpillar & Butterfly

