

Ideas to use with the story

Remember when together with your child:

Get **DOWN** to your **CHILD'S LEVEL**

LISTEN

Make **EYE CONTACT**

MODEL sounds during play

Find a **QUIET** area for reading!

Use your **VOICE** and **FACE** to make it fun and enjoyable!

Things that will help you:

With young children you don't need to read every word in the story, you can just talk about the pictures.

Try not to ask too many questions—just point and name. Try pointing and saying “It's a...” leave a **SHORT** pause, if your child does not fill in the gap, then you say it.

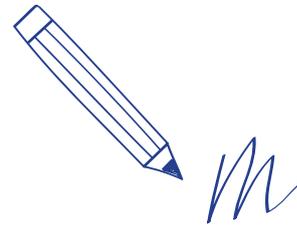
Give your child lots of praise and encouragement and add words to what they say. For example if your child says “App.” You say “Yes! A **BIG** apple!”

With children who are a little older, gently encourage your child to talk about the book afterwards, see what they can remember.

Read and explore *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/birth-4/read-and-explore-very-hungry-caterpillar/>

Drawing and colouring



Use drawing and colouring with your child. You could draw outlines for your child to colour in, or have a go at drawing some of these things from the book together: caterpillars, butterflies and food items from the book (apple, pear, plum, strawberry, orange, cake, ice cream etc).

What do I need?

- Something to draw with (pencils, crayons, chalk)
- Something to draw on (paper, roll of wallpaper, slabs in the garden)
- Something to colour with (pencil crayons, felts, paints, chalks)

Getting started?

- Set out the stationery and talk about the activity with your child
- Encourage your child to draw or colour in
- Praise your child for their efforts

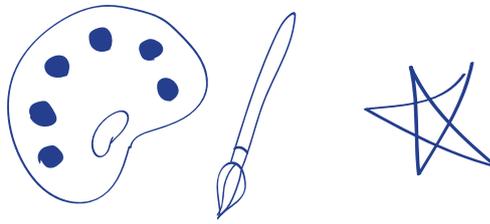
Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while colouring and drawing. For example: egg, caterpillar, cocoon/chrysalis, butterfly, metamorphosis, life cycle, colourful, change.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond!

TOP TIP

If your child says a word, add to it. For example, your child says "Gegg". You say "Yes! Little Egg!" Or "Yes! Egg's on the leaf!" etc . Don't worry if your child doesn't say the word correctly, just repeat back with the correct pronunciation.

Creating



Create something with your child from the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Make caterpillars: use egg boxes, colour in pasta tubes and thread them onto string. Make food for the caterpillars using playdough.

Make butterflies: You could use an empty cereal box to make an outline for a butterfly.

What do I need?

- Materials such as egg boxes, pasta tubes, cereal boxes, threads, kitchen roll tube, coloured paper, crayons, chinks, empty milk carton etc

Getting started?

- Look through the items with your child
- Support and encourage your child to be creative using the materials
- Praise your child for their efforts

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while creating. For example: create, caterpillar, butterfly, join, attach, stick, squash, squeeze, roll, mould.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond!

TOP TIP

Talk about your actions while you play. For example: "Cut, cut. Cut it out." "Stick. Stick it on. That's it. Good sticking!"

Hide and seek



Play **hide and seek** with your child. Gather some real food items or use pictures from the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Take it in turns to hide them around the room. Encourage your child to find them, bring them to you and name the item. Look for bugs outdoors. What bugs can you find?

Skills: turn taking, hiding and finding

What do I need?

- Something to play Hide and Seek with e.g. apple, pear, plum, strawberry, picture of a caterpillar or butterfly
- Park / Garden for going on a bug hunt

Getting started?

- Hide the items
- Encourage your child to find the items, giving them clues if necessary
- Praise your child for their efforts

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while playing. For example: hide, seek, count, find, bugs, spider, caterpillar, ladybird, ant etc.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond!

TOP TIP

Talk about **where** things are. For example: You're looking **under** the table. Try looking **on** the chair. Is it **in** the box? You found it! Well done! There it is! Where did you find it?

Pretend Play



Pretend play with your child. There are lots of ways to develop the story into pretend play. Collect the food items listed in the book and have a tea party with your child's favourite dolls, teddies or superheroes. Get involved and show your child how to put items on the plate, feed them to teddy etc.

Make shopping lists together and go shopping for fruit and other food items for a real tea party.

Skills: imagining, pretending

What do I need?

- Real or pretend food items
- Paper/pens for shopping lists
- Access to a supermarket

Getting started?

- Collect all of the things you need for pretend play
- Encourage your child to use the items and make lists together
- Praise your child for their efforts

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while playing. For example: drinking, favourite, pretend, talk about days of the week, list, shopping.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond!

TOP TIP

Sometimes you may need to show your child how to do pretend play - show them how to pour tea, take the cup to teddy's mouth etc. Use lots of gestures and noises to make it fun and interesting, such as loud eating and drinking noises. Don't forget to comment: "Pour the tea. Teddy's drinking. Sluurpp!"

Posting



Play posting with your child. Make a caterpillar post box. It could be a big round caterpillar face with a hole cut in it for the mouth. Or you could use an old shoe box. Place your food pictures face down. Take it in turns to turn a picture over and name it. Then post it/feed the caterpillar.

What do I need?

- Something with food pictures on (you could cut these out of a magazine or draw them yourself)
- Cardboard, shoe box

Getting started?

- Set up the postbox and pictures
- Encourage your child to say what the pictures are
- Praise your child for their efforts

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while playing. For example: post, caterpillar, butterfly.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond!

TOP TIP

With young children you may need to hold on to the pictures. Show each picture to your child and as they reach for it you say "It's a..." Pause to see if they can name it. If not, you name it for them, then let go of the picture so they can post it. If they don't pronounce the word correctly - just repeat the word e.g. child says "tate" you say "Yes! Cake!"

Build a bug hotel



Continue to learn more about bugs and nature by creating a bug hotel from things you will have around the home and outdoors. Enjoy exploring nature with your child and talking about the book and extending their learning.

Skills: imagining, making, learning

What do I need?

- Clean and empty plastic bottles (2 litre bottles work best)
- A sharp pair of scissors.
- Glue - super glue, PVA glue or a glue gun/ stapler
- Wire/rope
- Hole punch
- Items to make hotel rooms and to fill the hotel 'rooms' such as tree stumps, pinecones, leaves, stones, shells, long pieces of twine, old tyre, lolly sticks

Getting started?

- Collect all the things you need into a bag and find a suitable place in the garden to build your bug hotel
- Cut the top half of the empty plastic bottles and staple/ glue the plastic bottles together
- Let your child take the lead in deciding which natural materials to put into each room
- Label the items your child picks and give them specific praise for what they are doing e.g. "I liked the way you let your sister go first, that was really friendly"
- Hole punch a side of a bottle and thread some wire through it, hang it somewhere in your garden and keep an eye out for the bugs that move in
- Praise your child for their efforts

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while talking about your bug hotel. For example: If your child says 'shells', you say 'small shells'.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond! For example: you might say 'ladybirds might like to stay here'.

TOP TIP

A bug hotel is a way to get you and your child outside to explore nature. It helps build their confidence around mini beasts in a non-threatening manner. Many skills can be learnt from this activity ranging from looking skills to creative construction as well as language.