

The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



Sleep Tight with the Very Hungry Caterpillar

Written by: Eric Carle

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

This gentle, rhyming lift-the-flap book invites toddlers to join with the hungry caterpillar in visiting animal and insect friends as they go to sleep.

Genre: Lift-the-flap, fictional narrative

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *Sleep Tight with the Very Hungry Caterpillar* to introduce in your classroom:

Caterpillar	Cricket
Owl	Duckling
Wandering	Bobbing
Cuddled	Farm

Each time you read the book, highlight 2 or 3 words.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or refer to the illustrations to help children understand each word's meaning.

Use the new words throughout the day, reminding children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Physical Development
Item J
(Fine Motor Skills)

Science and
Technology
Item DD
(Natural and physical
world)

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item Q
(Book enjoyment and
knowledge)

Reading Tips

Because this book invites lifting flaps and discovering what is underneath each, it works best with one or two children.

Invite the child to make predictions in answer to the questions posed, but remain aware that those flaps are fun to open! Emphasize the rhymes on each page. Point out the lovely colors and images as you also invite the child to discover the caterpillar on each page.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. During each reading the adult can introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

This story works well before **rest** or any time that you and the child need to quiet or calm for a moment. Sing some lullabies too.

Use the story for a **group time** and invite the children to make the animal sounds of all the friends the caterpillar visits. At **music and movement**, invite the children to move like the caterpillar and all of the other animals and insects in the story.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Add insects to the **Block Area** and invite children to make homes for them.

Add materials to the **Art Area** for collages and paintings.

Bring together Eric Carle books in the **Book Area**. Explore with the children to see the similarities across the stories.

Add blankets or other materials to the **House Area** for putting animals, insects, or babies to sleep.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These "wondering aloud" questions support children's developing focus and attention as they encourage young children's capacity to make connections and see possibilities.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Sleep Tight with the Very Hungry Caterpillar*:

The very hungry caterpillar sees friends sleeping in many different places. Tell me about how you like to fall asleep.

What can you see from your bedroom window?

Who do you think helped the caterpillar to fall asleep?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

website—
www.famconn.org

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phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many children in our county will have this book at home, use it to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *ABC Look at Me* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Sleep Tight with the Very Hungry Caterpillar invites both active engagement (lifting those flaps and turning the pages of this board book) and calming down. Take your time and marvel with the child over the lovely colors and lush illustrations on each page. Ask your child to make predictions about what's under the flap as you explore each different type of 'going to sleep.' Talk with your child about your bedtime rituals and routines.