

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Nature Walk

By The World of Eric Carle

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

Let's explore nature and count what we see! Join the Very Hungry Caterpillar on this fun counting adventure.

Genre: Picture

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Nature Walk* to introduce in your room:

acorn
quickly

nature
beneath

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

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

Mathematics Item S
(*Numbers and counting*)

Science and
Technology
Item BB (*Observing and
classifying*, Item EE (*Tools
and technology*))

Reading Tips

Let the children know you will need their help to find and count different things in the story. Stop to ask questions like, "I wonder what the squirrels will do with the acorn?" and, "Where do you think the turtle is going?" Ask the children if there is something else from the story they want to count and review those pages. Encourage the children to talk about other critters that are illustrated, but not mentioned or counted (ants, hedgehog...)

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.

Bring the book along on a nature walk or at **Outside Time**. Encourage children to look for the items in the story. Find and count other nature items the children are excited about. If possible, collect those to bring inside for further investigation.

Have nature items and magnifiers for each child at **Small Group Time**. Encourage the children to count items, compare them and talk about what they have.

Around the Room

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

Have other Very Hungry Caterpillar books available in the **Book Area**. Read and talk about all the adventures and friends the VHC has.

Add acorns and different size measuring cups to the **Sand and Water Area**.

Have flower pages from gardening magazines and catalogues in the **Art Area** for the children to create a flower patch like the one in the story.

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 *The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Nature Walk*:

What animal did you see in the story that you liked best? Why?

What do you like to do when you are outside?

Where were the snails in the book headed?

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

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
[@famconnsjc](https://www.facebook.com/famconnsjc)

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 *The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Nature Walk* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Have fun looking for and counting the items in this story with your child. Give them time to thoroughly look at the pages because there is a lot more nature to see! Ask questions like, "Look at these ants walking up the tree. What is that in their mouths? What do you think they are doing?" Ask your child to show you the part or picture they especially like. Ask them to explain the picture. Take a walk in the neighborhood or at a park and bring along the book. Look for the same items that are in the story. Bring a small container to bring home nature items your child collected along the way.