

# The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



## Eric Carle's Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star and other nursery rhymes

*Infant/Toddler edition*

### Overview of Book

Some familiar characters illustrate familiar nursery rhymes in this interactive lift-the-flap board book. As you recite the rhymes invite children to guess what and who are under the flap. The Very Hungry Caterpillar hides on each page and is fun to seek and find. Be prepared to repeat the rhymes—they are fun to chant and sing!

Genre: Lift-the-flap, rhyming

### Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* to introduce in your room:

Twinkle  
Mouse  
Wheels

Farm  
Spider

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

Language, Literacy  
and Communication  
Item N (*Phonological  
awareness*)

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

Social and Emotional  
Development  
Item E (*Building  
relationships with  
adults*)

### Reading Tips

Nursery rhymes have been around for so long because they are a fun and effective way to emphasize the sounds of English. Have fun with the rhymes and songs as children join you in chanting or singing. The lift-the-flap features might make this book more effective as a small group read-aloud.

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.

The rhymes and songs make this book a perfect springboard for Music and Movement Group time. Show the illustrations as you invite children to choose the rhyme or song they want to dance or chant or sing.

As you plan transitions use the rhymes in the book and invite the children to repeat them with you. Use their names and invite language play.

### **Around the Room**

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

In the Block Area or Toy Area add props that match those in the book—school bus, spider, mouse, barn and farm animals.

In the Book Area, gather Eric Carle books and invite the children to find the same characters in different books.

### **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 *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*:

What are other animals on Old MacDonald's farm?

What else might run up the clock?

This spider is itsy-bitsy. What kind of spider would you like to sing about?

Where is the bus going? Where would you like to go in a bus?

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

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### **@ 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 *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Nursery rhymes and language play are fun and effective ways of supporting young children's language development. The 5 rhymes in this book invite interaction—back and forth songs and chants with a fun lift-the-flap feature. Emphasize the rhymes, let your child hear the sounds at the ends of the words. Pause and invite them to add a word or sound or even a rhyme! Have fun as your child lifts the flap to see which familiar character is hiding underneath.