

## 6 by 6 Interactive Spaces: **Book: Very Hungry Caterpillar**

### Overall skill area - **Have Fun With Books**

- Sign: (with monkey graphic)  
*Play is the Foundation of Early Literacy*  
Have Fun With Books

### Skill area - **Talk, Talk, Talk**

1. Activity – Imaginative Play, set up a cafe
  - Signs: (with toucan graphic)  
-What did the caterpillar eat?  
What do you like to eat?  
*The more words children hear, the larger their vocabulary becomes.*  
*Children with a large vocabulary have an enormous advantage in learning to read.*  
-Welcome to the Caterpillar Café.  
*Literacy relies on symbolism. Dramatic play with three-dimensional materials supports this process, as does drawing and making marks on paper.*
  - Supplies:  
Play stand; Café table; Wooden pretend fruit, plates; tablecloth,  
Menus (sign) with pictures of caterpillar food and pictures of ‘kid food’ (pizza, macaroni)
2. Activity – Make a butterfly
  - Sign: (with Toucan)  
Make a butterfly  
Ask, “*What happened to the caterpillar?*”
  - Supplies:  
Paper towel (volunteers can cut sheets from discarded rolls of paper towels from facilities); crayons; pipe cleaners; or you could use markers, or water colors.
3. Activity – Movement
  - Sign: (with butterfly)  
Enter a caterpillar -  
**Emerge** a butterfly  
*The great majority of all learning in the first few years of life involves sensory input and movements within the child’s body.*
  - Supplies:  
crawl-through tunnel; brightly colored scarves on rings

### Skill area - **Notice Print All Around You**

1. Activity – Create a picture menu either with crayons or cutting pictures from magazines
  - Sign: (kangaroo graphic)  
*Children come to understand that words we speak have a relationship to marks on the page through experience.*

### Skill area – **Tell Stories about Everything**

1. Activity – Put in order magnetic laminated pictures of fruit pictures

- Sign: (with turtle graphic)  
Encourage your child to retell the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar  
*Sequencing a story leads to reading comprehension.*
  - Supplies: Magnetic board; Laminated pages with magnet strips on back
2. Activity – Book making
- Sign: (with turtle picture)  
Encourage your child to draw the story of “The Very Hungry Caterpillar”  
Let children illustrate a book (maybe what they did today in the library.)  
Adults can write what children dictate.
  - Supplies: Paper stapled into books (volunteers); Crayons, markers;

### Skill area – **Look for Letters**

1. Activity - Magnetic shapes and letters
- Signs : (with peacock)  
Look for the shapes in letters.  
*Before children learn to recognize and make letters, they need many experiences with the shapes that make letters.*
  - Supplies: Magnetized letters and shapes (could be flannel)

### Skill area – **Take Time to Rhyme**

1. Poem on chalkboard –  
If you never did, you should,  
These things are fun and fun is good. Dr. Seuss
- Sign : (with goat graphic)  
*When learning to read, children need to be able to hear the smaller in words.*

### Area – Baby Space

1. Activity – Crawl around space
- Sign:  
*Babies brains are developed through movement:*
    - *Wiggling*
    - *Crawling*
    - *Rocking*
    - *Bouncing*
    - *Walking*
  - Supplies – texture panels adhered to pillows: soft, bumpy, smooth, etc.

## **THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR EARLY LITERACY KIT CONTENTS**

### **Large bin**

- wooden fruit, 2 plates, 2 bowls, 2 knives (Hazelnut Kids or A Toy Garden \$18-24.00)
  - 2 pans, wooden or metal (Hazelnut Kids or A Toy Garden - \$20-24.00)
  - blue checkered table cloth (custom made)
  - 6 scarves on shower curtain rings (US Toy, target)
  - 2 hand puppets - caterpillar & butterfly (US Toy \$6.99 each)
- Storytelling props:
- plush caterpillar (US Toy or Kohls)
  - bean bag fruit (Lakeshore or custom)
  - soft butterfly (US Toy)
  - Magnetic letters (Accucut sheets)
  - sample paper towel squares and starter bag of crayons
  - paper towel end roll (more can be requested from custodian)
  - cut pipe cleaners
  - 2 clip boards; lined/illustration paper (make a menu or illustrate what you did)
  - laminated fruit picture pages for sequencing
  - VHC books
    - 2 board books
    - 1 hardcover
  - Wooden insect puzzle (US Toy \$14.95)
  - Wooden butterfly puzzle (US Toy \$14.95)
  - 4 Soft cubes with 6 by 6 images (cubes-US Toy \$9.99; custom images)
  - Signs
- Large motor crawl-through tunnel - sent separately on request  
(small - USA Babies \$29.99; large-Lakeshore \$59.99 )

### **What You'll Need to Provide:**

- markers/crayons for butterfly craft
- containers
- more paper towels

