

(Sample Newsletter)

"The Very Hungry Caterpillar"

April 29 - May 2 & May 6 - 9, 2002

Dear Families,

Hello! The repeated reading and literacy unit for the next two weeks will be *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* literacy unit focuses on spring, butterflies and their life cycle, healthy foods, and the days of the week.

Listen for and encourage your child to use the following vocabulary: egg; larvae; caterpillar; chrysalis (pronounced \kris-e-les\); cocoon; butterfly; insect; nectar; silk; beautiful; leaf; nibble; pickle; Swiss cheese; salami; and sausage. We will also be focusing on the concepts: out, in, tiny, up, down, through, and around. Additional information that might be helpful to know and discuss with your child is the butterfly life cycle. The butterfly experiences life in four stages- the egg, larva, pupa, and adult stages. To put it simply, a butterfly lays an egg. From the egg, the larva or caterpillar hatches. The caterpillar then spins a silk cocoon, and two weeks later a beautiful butterfly emerges!

In the classroom, we will be hatching butterflies in a "butterfly garden." It will take about 21 days, and it will be fun for the children to observe the changes over time. If you have any questions or would like to participate in or assist with any of the activities please join us in the classroom. Books from the classroom library and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* family literacy activity bag are available for checkout upon child or parent request.

Thanks!

Teacher Mary

Monday, April 29

Today we will...

- CENTERS: 1. Make egg carton caterpillars in the art center
2. Read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* in the library
3. Trace number caterpillars in the writing center
4. Shop for fruit at " *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* Food Farm" in dramatic play
5. Mold caterpillars out of fruit-scented play dough

CIRCLE: We will put larvae into our butterfly garden and wait 21 days for them to hatch into beautiful butterflies!

SNACK: Apple and cheese slices

STORY: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle

Tuesday, April 30

Today we will...

- CENTERS: 1. Use Popsicle stick caterpillars to measure our bodies at the science center
2. Dig for caterpillars in the dirt at the trough
3. Create name caterpillars at the writing center
4. Play *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* Blending Bingo at the puzzle center
5. Paint a stone caterpillar at the art center

CIRCLE: Sing "A Caterpillar Song" and check on our larvae and note observations

SNACK: Pears and cottage cheese

STORY: *Inch by Inch* by Leo Lionni

Wednesday, May 1

Today we will... Listen for special "dissected directions" throughout the day. "What is that silly teacher trying to say?"

- CENTERS: 1. Lace fruit necklaces at the art center
2. Paint plums at the easel
3. Write our names in the fruit scented salt boxes at the writing center
4. Purchase healthy foods at " *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* Food Farm" at dramatic play
5. Make banana Popsicles at the cooking center

CIRCLE: Sort healthy foods from "junk" foods, and note any larvae changes

SNACK: Banana Popsicles

STORY: *The Hungry Thing Returns* by Jan Slepian; participate in an activity called "Hungry Thing Snacks" after the story

Thursday, May 2

Today we will...

- CENTERS:
1. Wash fruits and vegetables in the trough
 2. Sequence strawberries by size at the art center
 3. Graph favorite fruits at the discovery center
 4. Participate in a picture story/word story journaling activity about favorite fruit at the writing center
 5. Interact and read along with, and listen to *D.W. the Picky Eater* at the computer

CIRCLE: Grab Bag Surprise...we will have to do some vegetable guessing!
Document any changes our larvae have made.

SNACK: Bananas and yogurt

STORY: *In the Tall, Tall Grass* by Denise Fleming

Monday, May 6

Today we will...

- CENTERS:
1. Spin a bread cocoon around a beef hotdog in the cooking center
 2. Decorate a Dip-and-Sip Nectar Flower for snack (Butterflies are thirsty when they hatch from their cocoons so we will learn how they "drink" nectar.)
 3. Practice sequencing the butterfly life cycle at the writing center
 4. Put together *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* puzzle
 5. Make "I Spy Binoculars" at the art center

CIRCLE: Describe and chart what we know about cocoons and check our larvae

SNACK: Beef Cocoons and Nectar Cups

STORY: *Today is Monday* by Eric Carle

Tuesday, May 7

Today we will...

- CENTERS:
1. Pattern butterfly and flower prints at the writing center
 2. Make hand- or footprint butterflies at the art center
 3. Play beanbag flower toss with a friend at the block center
 4. Plant marigold seeds in pots at the trough
 5. Draw butterflies and flowers on the computer; print and color them

CIRCLE: Sing the "Butterflies" song, and document any larvae change
Practice our rhyming skills by saying the names of items that rhyme.

SNACK: Applesauce and wafers

STORY: *I Am Eyes* by Leila Ward

Wednesday, May 8

Today we will...

- CENTERS:
1. Make butterflies with the letter "B" at the art center
 2. Play Garden Lotto with a friend
 3. Read "If I were a Butterfly" poem and write a story for our class book at the writing center
 4. Put together picture puzzles - segment, blend, and count syllables in words
 5. Sort caterpillars and butterflies from other insects at the discovery center

CIRCLE: Write a class poem "If I were a Butterfly" and note larvae activity!

RECESS: Participate in *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* Awesome Athletics event.

SNACK: Larvae on a log (raisins and peanut butter on celery)

STORY: *Miss Spider's ABC* by David Kirk

Thursday, May 9

Today we will...

- CENTERS:
1. Use watercolor paints to decorate coffee filter flowers at the writing center
 2. Bake cinnamon caterpillars at the cooking center
 3. Make a butterfly magnet with a clothespin and tissue paper at the art center
 4. Count and graph fruit at the discovery center
 5. Dance like butterflies to music in the block center

CIRCLE: Read a poem called "Flying Butterflies," and see if we have a cocoon yet!

SNACK: Cinnamon caterpillars hot out of the oven!

STORY: *The Lamb and the Butterfly* by Arnold Sundgaard