

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It was so lovely speaking to some of you on the phone last week. I'm so glad that you are all keeping well and staying busy at home. It was so nice hearing what you have all been up to and thank you for sending us emails with all the great learning experiences you have been doing at home. For anyone who is unwell or have family members/ friends who are unwell we are all thinking of you and wishing you the best. We have been having frequent Zoom meetings as a nursery staff team and have been missing seeing you all at nursery! We look forward to speaking to you on fortnightly basis to find out how you have all been doing and try to support you as best as we can in this challenging time. Please don't hesitate to get in touch via email if you need any support. I know that some of you have been developing your English and Literacy skills through reading stories at home and thought I we would introduce a story of the week to enjoy at home.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Zoe Hilferty (SCDW at Sacred Heart Nursery)

Story of the Week

"The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle



Online Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQK-Sm1YY> (animated version)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkYmvxPOAJI> (narrated version)

How the Book Can Support Children's Learning

Health and Wellbeing:

- Learning about healthy eating; using our senses to explore what some foods look, taste, feel and smell like.
- A sense of enjoyment and achievement when preparing healthy foods and drinks.
- Awareness of hygienic food handling.
- A knowledge of where food comes from.
- Learning about the life cycle of some animals.
- Learning about a different culture.

Literacy:

- Enjoyment of stories.
- Listening to a story from beginning to end.
- Talking about what happens in the story and the characters.
- Talking about a favourite part of a story.
- Predicting what might happen next.
- Retelling a story in own words with or without puppets/props.
- Using imagination to up your own stories through role play, drawing pictures or writing..

Numeracy:

- Counting and using numbers up to 10.
- Using mathematical language to describe and compare things - Big/bigger, small/smaller, thick/thicker, thin/thinner, long/ longer, short/shorter
- Recognising and creating simple patterns including symmetry.
- Days of the week.

Possible Home Learning Experiences Linked to the Story

Things to talk about:

- Look at the front cover of the book and talk about what the story might be about.
- Talk about how caterpillars look and feel - have you held one? Do they all look the same?
- Think about good words to describe the caterpillar?
- Count together how many of each food the caterpillar eats. Remember to point and count slowly.

- Think about the different kinds of fruit he eats and where they grow.
- What is your favourite fruit?
- Is there a fruit that the caterpillar eats that you have not tasted?
- Which food do you think the caterpillar enjoys most?

- Think about what makes a food healthy? What are your favourite foods?
- Talk about the days of the week together and some of the things you do on a particular day. This is a difficult one at the moment!
- What did the Hungry Caterpillar eat on Monday?
- On which day does the Hungry Caterpillar eat a plum?

- How do you think he feels when he has eaten all the food?
- Have you ever felt like this? Talk about why the caterpillar eats so much.

- Discuss the ending of the story and where the butterfly comes from.
- Talk about how butterflies look.

Things to do:

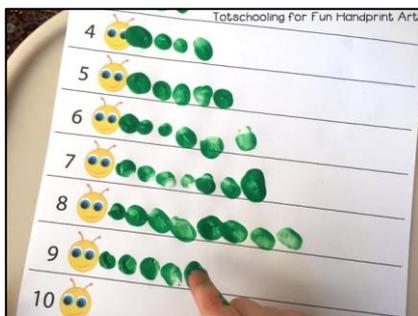
- Share the story every day.
 - Make a story den to listen to the story in. Add cushions, blankets, fairy lights. Be sure to have a place for your favourite soft toys so that you can cuddle them when you are listening.
 - Make stick puppets of the caterpillar, the butterfly and the different things he eats. You can retell the story using these.
 - Listen to the Days of the Week song and sing it together every day this week.
 - Count things around the house when you are playing, making snack, baking, tidying up. Remember to point and count.
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- Look for symmetrical patterns in nature and in pictures and try to copy them or make your own.
 - Make patterns using paint, crayons, coloured pencils, stickers or things you find outdoors.
 - Look at pictures of caterpillars and butterflies. Talk about how they look - shape, size, colour, pattern, wings etc. If you have a garden, look for some real ones.
 - Encourage children to make their own pictures /models using brightly coloured paint, crayons, pens, sticks, stones, milk bottle lids, egg boxes and any other recycled materials you can find!



- Make caterpillars of different sizes using playdough. Use

mathematical language to describe them... long, short, longer, shorter, thicker, thinner etc. Add these to a tub with some leaves and twigs. Let the children play with them and make up their own stories.

- Experiment with different ways to create patterns for butterfly wings. Try drawing with wax crayons and painting over with watery paint. The harder you press with the crayon, the more effective this will be.



- Cut-and-stick bits from old magazines, different coloured paper, boxes, stickers to make patterns for butterfly wings.
- Experiment with printing. Pour some liquid paint into an empty ice-cream tub or tray. Dip different objects into the paint to make a print. You can use sticks, stones, pinecones, lids of pens, milk carton... anything you can find!
- Make a symmetrical butterfly. Fold a piece of paper in half. On one half paint a pattern. Fold it over, press it down and open again to reveal two beautiful wings. Then draw or paint a body in the middle of the wings.
- Make a fruit salad, fruit kebabs or a smoothie from different fruits (see below).
- Make caterpillar inspired snacks and cakes.



- Make a house for the caterpillar to rest in. Gather together leaves, wool, twigs, pieces of paper and odds and ends to make a home for the caterpillar. Remember to make it cosy. Can you make a house for a bigger animal to rest in?
- Collect twigs and push them into pieces of playdough to make trees. Add these to a tray along with some leaves. Children can make caterpillars or other creatures to play with in the tray. Use mathematical language to describe them- long, short, longer, shorter, thicker, thinner etc. They can make up stories or retell the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar.
- Look for mini beasts in the garden. Turn over stones, look under leaves and twigs. Talk about what you find, what they look like, how many legs they have.
- Find out more about the life cycle of the butterfly by following the CBBC link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a75Jqde8k1I>
- Find out about the life cycle of other animals.

➤ Songs to sing together:

➤ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUBBh4QzTU> (caterpillar song)

➤ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqM8IijwED8> (5 speckled frogs)

➤ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhWDiQRrC1Y> (yoga link)

➤ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a75Jqde8k1I> (Cbeebies caterpillars)

➤ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPgTdgvj_jc (days of week song)

Poems to learn with actions:

"The Fuzzy Caterpillar"

Fuzzy Wuzzy caterpillar
in the garden creeps.
He spins himself a blanket
and soon falls fast asleep.

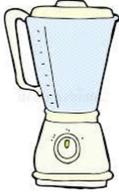
Fuzzy Wuzzy Caterpillar Wakes Up
by and by,

To find he has wings of beauty,
changed to a butterfly.

"Caterpillar, Caterpillar"

Caterpillar, caterpillar, long and slow.
Caterpillar, caterpillar eat and grow.
Caterpillar, caterpillar close your eyes.
Caterpillar, caterpillar change your size.
Caterpillar, caterpillar where'd you go?

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Smoothie:

<u>Ingredients</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Instructions</u>
2 Apples 	Food processor or blender 	1. Chop the fruit  2. Blend until fruit is pureed 3. Add in the apple juice 4. Add ice-cubes and blend until smooth
1 Banana 		
2 Pears 		
225ml Apple Juice 		
6 Ice Cubes 		



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