

The Very Hungry Caterpillar: Storytelling Tips and Learning Tools

Before narration:

- Introduce the book as one that describes the lifecycle of a butterfly
- Start a discussion on whether the children know where butterflies come from
- Ask if they know the days of the week

Storytelling:

- Enact the story:
 - Show expressions of the caterpillar when it has a tummy ache. Add some Oohs and Aahs and touch your stomach to show pain
 - Enact a happy butterfly. Flap your hands for the fluttering wings
- When the caterpillar crawls out and is hungry, play with the kids. You could say something like, "The caterpillar was hungry. What was he going to eat?" Advance towards the children and pretend to gobble them. Kids are sure to giggle. Then you could read out the items the caterpillar ate
- As you read the foods the caterpillar ate, identify the foods and count along with the kids. For example, you could say, "On Wednesday he ate one, two, three plums."
- Hold suspense for when the cocoon breaks and lead to the ending slowly. You may say, "...and the cocoon broke and can you guess what came out?"
Invite the children to guess.
If they guessed it right, tell them something like, "That's right. Out came a beautiful butterfly."
If they didn't get it right, tell them, "No. Out came a beautiful butterfly."

After narration:

- Ask kids to describe butterflies they have seen

Extended activities:

- Draw and paint colorful butterflies
- The life cycle of a butterfly can be explained using a flannel board. Cut out the egg, caterpillar, cocoon, and butterfly on felt paper and place them on the flannel board in a circle while describing each phase
- Visit a park where the children can see butterflies. For example, Butterflies and Blooms in San Francisco.