

Beyond the Book Activities

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

By Eric Carle

Parents/Caregivers: Why do books matter? It all comes down to ABCs.

- **A child deserves to be prepared:** Educators emphasize that reading with your preschool child is one of the most important activities to prepare them for kindergarten.
- **Books are essential:** Studies by the National Assessment of Educational Progress organization have consistently found that the more reading material available in the home, the better students' reading levels are likely to be.
- **Cost of children not being prepared:** According to the Wilder Research, in Minnesota, the cost of children entering kindergarten unprepared is approximately \$113 million annually to school systems due to increased:
 - Student aid
 - Special education and grade repetition
 - Teacher related costs
 - Impact on school safety due to delinquent behavior

Utilize the following activities to take you and your child(ren) beyond the book you just read.

These activities were developed through the cooperation of United Way Success By 6, Marshall Lyon County Public Library and Marshall ECCE Little Cubs.

Supplies Needed

Activity 1

- White paper
- Green tissue paper
- Glue
- Pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Wiggle Eyes

Activity 3

- Coffee filters
- Clothes pins
- Markers
- Glue
- Pipe cleaners
- Wiggle eyes

***Read book before getting ready for each activity.**

Activity 1: Tissue Paper Caterpillar

Supplies you'll need: White circles (cut from construction paper), green tissue paper, glue, google eyes, pipe cleaners, scissors

Directions:

- Give your child some green tissue paper and have them tear it into small pieces.
- Give your child several large white circles (or have them cut them out) and glue.
- Have your child cover their white circles, one by one, completely with glue.
- Then, have your child glue the tissue paper onto the circle. Instruct them to overlap the tissue paper. Each circle should be completely covered. Allow the project to dry.
- Next, have your child attach two legs (made of pipe cleaners) to each circle.
- Once dry, connect the circles in a row (to form a caterpillar).
- Finally, add two antennae (made of pipe cleaners) and two eyes to the first circle in the line to make one large caterpillar.

***Explain to your child that the way they created this caterpillar (tissue paper collage) is the way that Eric Carle created the pictures for his books. Show your child several of his books so that they can admire his work.**

Activity 2: Memory/Matching

Supplies you'll need: Butterfly matching game (print two copies so each picture has a match)

Directions:

- Arrange pieces face down on a table or floor.
- Take turns finding matching pairs.

Alternative Option for younger child

- Create matches while looking at the cards
- Count how many pairs
- Talk about the different colors and sizes



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Activity 3: Butterfly

Supplies you'll need: Coffee filters, markers, clothes pins, wiggle eyes, pipe cleaners and glue

Directions:

- Give your child a coffee filter and some markers.
- Have your child color patterns on their coffee filter.
- **Optional step: Lightly spray (do not soak) coffee filter with water from a spray bottle. The ink will spread and blend. Let coffee filter dry.**
- Next, have your child color the top of their clothespin. **OPTIONAL:** Have them add antennae (pipe cleaners) and wiggle eyes.
- Then show your child how to gather the middle of the filter and insert it into the clothespin.
- Show your child how to fan out the sides of the filter to look like butterfly wings.

