

Unit 3: Awesome Animals
Week 4: Ten Little Caterpillars

Objectives:

To read *Ten Little Caterpillars* with your preschooler, build emergent math skills, and enjoy your time together!

Materials:

A copy of *Ten Little Caterpillars* by Bill Martin Jr.

Week 4 Lesson Steps:

1. Start by telling your preschooler that you are going to read *Ten Little Caterpillars*. Help your preschooler make predictions about the story by asking some of these questions:

Example Questions

- What does the author do?
- What does the illustrator do?
- What do you think this story is going to be about by looking at the pictures?
- What is a caterpillar?

Introduction/Ice Breaker

Sing a song about another ten animals...Ten Little Monkeys!

10 little monkeys jumping on the bed
1 fell off and bumped his head
Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"

Decrease the number of monkeys for each verse until you get to "no more monkeys."

2. Read *Ten Little Caterpillars* with your preschooler. You do not have to read every word of the story! Your preschooler might be more interested in having you read him or her the labels of the plants. That's completely fine!

Fun and Easy Reading Tips

- Start by talking with your preschooler about caterpillars. Here are some questions you might talk about as you read:
 - What is a caterpillar?
 - How does a caterpillar turn into a butterfly?
 - Where do caterpillars live?
 - What do caterpillars eat?
- Practice counting with your preschooler. You can count along with the story or count other pictures like leaves or apples. See if your preschooler can help you count backwards!

- Help your preschooler sound out familiar words (such as “the,” “a,” and “little”).
- Talk about shapes with your preschooler. What shapes do you see in the collage that illustrator Lois Ehlert uses?
- Define new words for your preschooler!

Conclusion:

Today you read *Ten Little Caterpillars* with your preschooler and practiced early math and language skills. Think about all of the wonderful things you’ve helped your preschooler learn so far!

Follow-Up Activity:

Keep the counting going! What else can you count with your preschooler around the house?

Writing Extension:

Help your preschooler write and illustrate what happened to the eleventh caterpillar!

Early Developmental Standards Taught in Week 4

- Verbally count forward in sequence from 1-30.
- Understand that the last number name said tells the number of objects counted, up to 10.
- Show awareness of conventional letter-sound relationships through use of invented spelling in writing.
- Recognize own name in print and some other common symbols and words in the environment.
- Recognize spoken words can be written and read.