

Unit 3: Awesome Animals
Week 5: I'm A Caterpillar!

Objectives:

To read *Ten Little Caterpillars* with your preschooler, practice emergent mathematics concepts, and talk about insects.

Materials:

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

Week 5 Lesson Steps:

1. Start by reminding your preschooler that you are reading *Ten Little Caterpillars*. Can your preschooler remember what the story was about?

Introduction/Ice Breaker

Sing this song about caterpillars with your preschooler:

The Caterpillar is Growing Sung to "If you're happy and you know it"

I'm a tiny caterpillar just for you (munch, munch)

I'm a tiny caterpillar just for you (munch, munch)

I am tiny and I'm small watch me crawl on the wall

I'm a tiny caterpillar just for you (munch, munch)

I'm a medium caterpillar just for you (munch, munch)

I'm a medium caterpillar just for you (munch, munch)

I'm not too big and I'm not too small

I'm a medium caterpillar just for you (munch, munch)

I'm a big caterpillar just for you (munch, munch)

I'm a big caterpillar just for you (munch, munch)

I ate too much food, now I have to make a cocoon

I'm a big caterpillar just for you (munch, munch)

Retrieved from <http://singanewsongmusic.blogspot.com/2011/05/very-hungry-caterpillar-songs.html>

2. Read *Ten Little Caterpillars* with your preschooler. See if he or she can remember any of it from the last time you read and help you read along!

Fun and Easy Reading Tips

- Make up silly sound effects or hand motions to accompany the story as you tell it. This will help your preschooler remember the story!
- Count! You can count the caterpillars, leaves, even words on a page. See if your preschooler can count backwards and forwards!

- Does your preschooler understand concepts of more and less? Are five caterpillars more than two caterpillars? Test your preschooler’s understanding with numbers between one and five.
- Help your preschooler clap out syllables to help him or her learn about the sounds that make up words.
 - For example, “caterpillar” has four syllables.
 - “Hen” has one syllable.
- Quiz your preschooler on beginning word sounds to help him or her practice learning the sounds of words.
 - For example, does “caterpillar” have the same first sound as “head” or “cabbage”?

Conclusion:

Today you read *Ten Little Caterpillars* with your preschooler and practiced both early math and early literacy skills. What a great way to spend time with your preschooler!

Follow-Up Activity:

If your preschooler is really enjoying this caterpillar book, try another one! Check out *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle from your local library.

Writing Extension:

Help your preschooler write a few sentences about his or her favorite animal. Let your preschooler illustrate the sentences.

Early Developmental Standards Taught in Week 5

- Participate in oral activities to introduce counting syllables in familiar words and words in a sentence.
- With guidance and support, discriminate between words with the same and different first letter sounds.
- With modeling and support, use a combination of drawing, dictating, and letters to explain information about a familiar topic or informational topic.
- Use comparative language, such as more/less than or equal to, to compare and describe collections of objects by matching