A-Book-A-Week: Classroom Instruction
The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Activity Card #1	Literacy Development Category:
	Language Development: Experiencing and enjoying patterned text

Suggested Activity Order

The Very Hungry Caterpillar falls into the category of predictable books, and the text is predictable in many ways. First, it features the days of the week, which the children have encountered in other A-Book-A-Week selections. Second, it features counting words, also the focus of other lessons. Third, it contains the repeated sentence structure -- "On ___, he ate through [number] [food], but he was still hungry." We'll use these features in our role play

1. Re-read The Very Hungry Caterpillar encouraging children to join in.
2. Distribute the days of the week and the food cards. You may want to punch holes in these, and string yarn through so that the children can wear them around their necks.
3. Perform your story once with the teacher reading all the parts, pointing to the children wearing the cards when it is time for them to stand.
4. Then, perform the story again. This time, the teacher reads the first page, and all the pages following "the stomach ache". The children are to chant the refrain shown above -- *"On ___, he ate through [number] [food], but he was still hungry."* You may need to cue them.
5. Repeat your story multiple times. You can redistribute the food and day cards. Our objective is to have as many children joining in the chanting as possible.

Materials Needed:

- **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** book
- **Food cards** (found at the end of this file)
- **Day of the week cards** (found at the end of this file)

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Activity Card #2	Literacy Development Category: Artist's Craft: Experimenting with collage
Suggested Activity Order *On his web page, Eric Carle supplies a great of information. He talks about how The Very Hungry Caterpillar came into existence (with some holes being punched!). He also describes the way he makes his collages. You and your children can make caterpillars just like Carle does.* 1. Show children Carle's picture, and indicate that this is the man who wrote and illustrated The Very Hungry Caterpillar. You might want to read them what Carle says about how the book came to be. 2. Next, read the children Carle's explanation of his picture creation. 3. Show the children the art supplies they will be using. Early in the day, have them paint their tissue paper. Later in the day, they will cut out and paste their circles to make their very own Hungry Caterpillars. 4. Post the children's pictures on a classroom bulletin board, surrounding your picture of Eric Carle.	**Materials Needed:** ❑ Eric Carle picture ❑ Colored tissue paper ❑ Paints ❑ Scissors ❑ Glue ❑ Paper

About Eric Carle (and his picture):
http://www.eric-carle.com/bio.html

How The Very Hungry Caterpillar came into existence:
http://www.eric-carle.com/VHCbdaypage.html

How Eric Carle makes his pictures:
http://www.eric-carle.com/makepic.html

Other teachers' ideas for The Very Hungry Caterpillar:
http://www.eric-carle.com/bb-VHC.html

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Activity Card #3	Literacy Development Category:
	Acts of Writing

Suggested Activity Order	Materials Needed:
Because The Very Hungry Caterpillar is such a predictable text, it makes perfect sense for the class to write their own book, The Very Hungry Children. 1. Remind children that they learned a bit about the author and illustrator of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* yesterday. *2. Tell them that today they will be authors, and that they will write their own version of The Very Hungry Children.* 3. Brainstorm with the children. Where would the children be when there was light from the moon? What would they do on Sunday? What would the children eat one of on Monday? What would they eat 2 of on Tuesday? Finally, ask them to think of a way that they might be transformed, just as the caterpillar became a cocoon and then a butterfly, [HINT: they will become kindergarten children next year] Record the children's ideas. 4. Next, guide the children in assembling their ideas into a story form. You will record the story on the chart paper. 5. Ask the children to draw a picture from their story. Tell them to "write or pretend to write" the words that go with their pictures. 6. Make individual copies of the class story. Children will use their caterpillar creations, the story, and the picture from today's activity to create their own books.	❑ Chart paper ❑ Marker

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Activity Card #4	Literacy Development Category: Lots of Links: The Life Cycle of the Butterfly
Suggested Activity Order 1. Ask the children to tell you the story of the very hungry caterpillar. Then ask them if they think caterpillars really eat pieces of cake, swiss cheese, salami, etc. 2. Use the life cycle cards found at the end of the file. Be sure to use the word *chrysalis* instead of *cocoon.* Explain that, although *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is a story that Mr. Carle invented, much of his story is based in truth. 3. Read what Mr. Carle has written about his choice of using the word *cocoon.* 4. Tell children that during the spring, we will hunt for our own caterpillar. If your class finds one, you can keep it in a glass jar, making sure it has leaves. If you are lucky, it will spin a chrysalis and turn into a butterfly! You and your children can be scientists all spring long, making daily entries in a class log that tell what your very own caterpillar is doing.	**Materials Needed:** ❑ Life cycle cards (at the end of this file)

What Eric Carle explains about the word cocoon:
http://www.eric-carle.com/cocoon.html
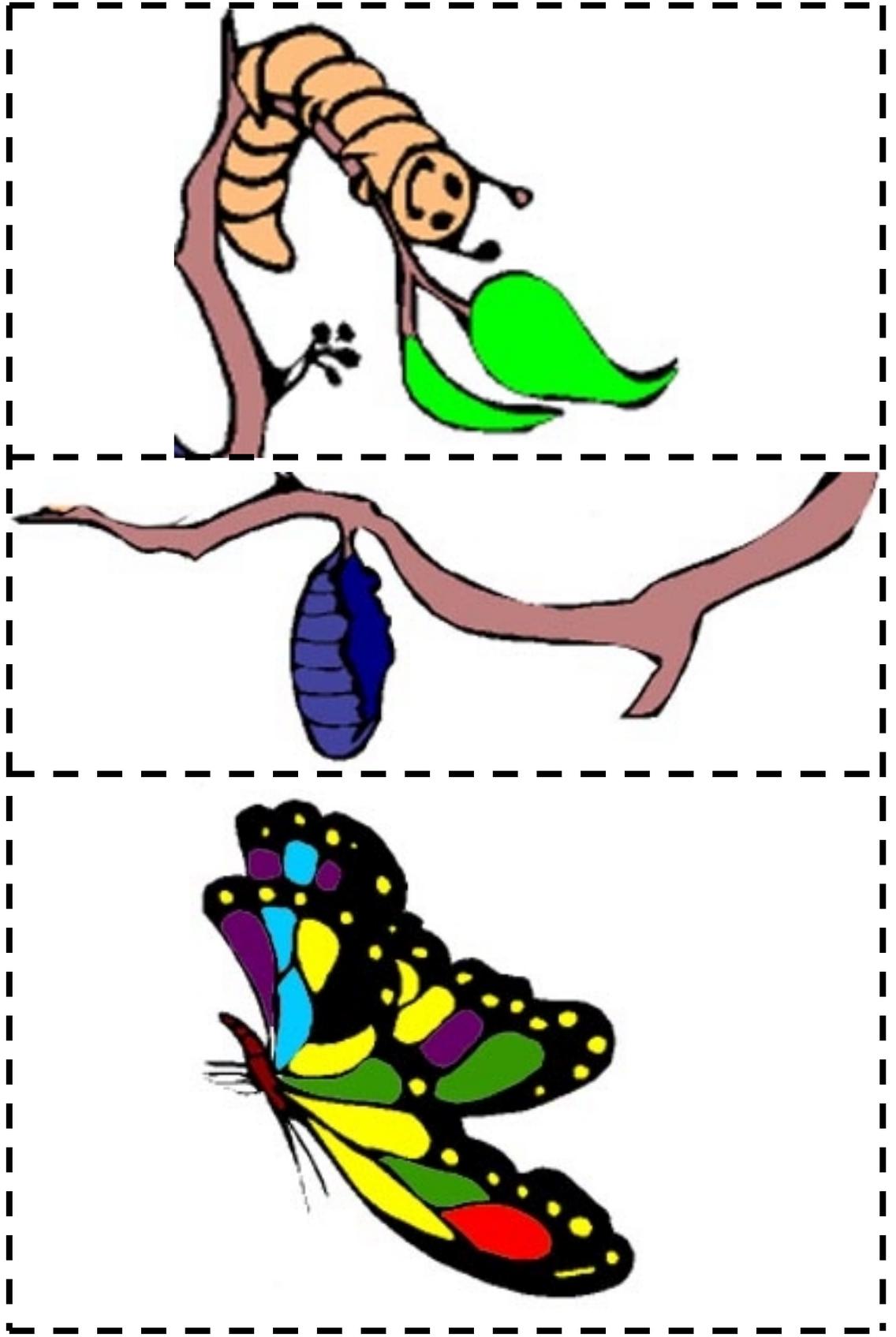
Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday