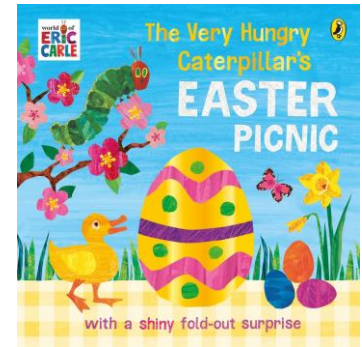


LEARNING TIME

The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Easter Picnic By Eric Carle

A wonderful book for talking. A hands on interactive board book format, with many things to name and describe – building language in a fun, engaging story.

The classic book The Very Hungry Caterpillar character will be recognizable to most adults, making this a classic addition to the Eric Carle collection. Big bright illustrations will draw babies' attention, whilst learning the name of many animals on the farm.



Language: Horse, cow, caterpillar, butterfly, hen, cockerel, flock of sheep, lamb, ladybird, bunnies, farm, nest, farmer, farmhouse, daffodils, behind, near and open and close (flaps).

Key Message: Children's Wellbeing is Critical to Brain Development and Learning

- Early interactions between adults and babies have a long-lasting impact on brain development.
- Babies learn to talk by listening to people talk, and from people speaking with them.
- Spend quality time connecting, engaged in shared activities.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing.

We can help babies become confident learners by:

- Allowing time in your day for play, songs, and stories. Have fun with babies while you read, smile, make eye contact, make silly voices, make animals noises.
- Families are a baby's first teacher. We can be active role models for families by inspiring them and giving them ideas for play activities that they can enjoy at home.
- Providing opportunities for baby to explore, experiment and be hands on with books. Ensure books are accessible for babies to play with, have them on the floor or in easy to access places such as in baskets or on bottom shelves.
- Build strong brain connections by naming and explaining things in their world, not once but many times, and in many ways.

Welcome

Ask caregivers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Encourage parents to sing facing their baby so that baby can watch their mouth move as they sing and talk – this helps babies learn to speak themselves.

Welcome song - Come Along

Come along and sing with me, sing with me

Come along and sing with me, it's time for story time!

Repeat and replace 'sing' with bounce, rock, clap etc.

Come along and bounce with me, bounce with me, bounce with me

Come along and bounce with me, it's time for story time!

Finger Rhyme

Little Peter Rabbit

Little Peter Rabbit

Had a fly upon his nose, (gently touch babies nose)

Little Peter Rabbit

Had a fly upon his nose,

Little Peter Rabbit

Had a fly upon his nose,

So he swished it and he swashed it and it flew away.

Little Peter Rabbit

Had a very floppy ear, (pretend to have a floppy ear, using a hand gesture)

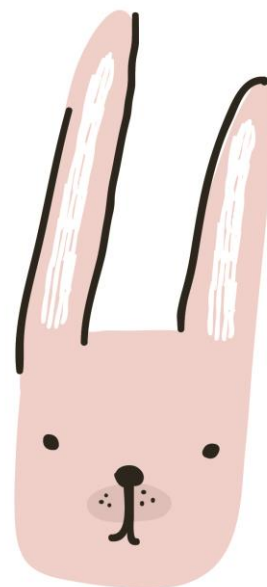
Little Peter Rabbit

Had a very floppy ear

Little Peter Rabbit

Had a very floppy ear

So he flipped it, and he flopped it and it stood up straight.



Explore songs on Spotify or Youtube under our Featured Stories Playlist of by theme.

Before Reading

There are a few online readings of this boo, you may want to review to get some tips and ideas too.
https://youtu.be/ZPY7p_BYIcY

Encourage the group to sit comfortably in a place where they can see the book. If you have multiple copies of the same book this is a simple way to encourage families to join along with you.

You might like to model how to explore the front cover of a book. Draw attention to the illustrations on the front cover say, "Look at my book, I see a cat, a rabbit, a duck and a sheet. let's read it together". (Point to things as you name them, allowing time for observations and processing).

During Reading

Enjoy the animals as they are revealed in the book, make animal noises and gestures.

Make the turning the flap dramatic and fun, pondering if an egg will be there and using a sound to open the flap like – ta da!

Allow time for concepts to be explored, you might choose to skip some pages if the audience are losing concentration. This is not a book that you need to read all pages consecutively but do read the ending – it brings the book together.

After Reading

Encourage conversation Have a quiet time together resting and reflecting. Invite the audience to share their favorite books they like to share with their babies.

Read

- Adults can be encouraged to borrow books to read in full to their child at home. Explain to caregivers that children are often able to concentrate for longer periods in a comfortable one on one situation. The adult reader is also to go at a pace that suits the child and gently redirect their attention.
- Books do not have to be read in one sitting. It might be that you read a few pages together and come back to it later. Let parents know that books can 'grow with the child'. Re-read the same books to the children as they grow older. As they grow toddlers and preschoolers will also enjoy and notice additional details.

Talk

- Spend time together reflecting on the things you observed and enjoyed in the book.

Play

- Try a range of finger plays that explore actions such as open, shut them and peek-a-boo.

Sing

- Use the song lyrics on the following page to print out and give to families or enlarge and make a poster they can all see and follow along with.

Open, Shut Them

(OPEN palms out
curl fingers into a ball for SHUT)



Open shut them

Open shut them give a little clap

Open shut them

Open shut them, lay them in your lap

Creep them, creep them

Creep them, creep them, right up to your chin

Open wide your little mouth, but do not let them in!

Open shut them

Open shut them give a little clap

Open shut them

Open shut them, lay them in your lap

Creep them, creep them

Creep them, creep them, right up to your chin

Open wide your little mouth, but do not let them in

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: Traditional / Deborah Anne Wood

Open, Shut Them lyrics © Wiggly Tunes Pty. Ltd., Mushroom Music Pty Ltd

Extension Activity

Try our resources to extend your babies' vocabulary

Nursery Rhymes for Everyday with CD

<https://littlebookpress.com.au/collections/books-for-babies/products/nursery-rhymes-for-every-day>

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Where's Mrs Hen** by Ingela P Arrhenius (*Nosy Crow*)
- **Lullabies for Bed Time** by Raising Literacy Australia (*Little Book Press*)
- **Farm Fun** by Natalie Marshall (*Five Mile Press*)

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (*Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*) **or** your preferred choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action)

Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!



Visit our website for more great book recommendations and ideas on how to use them.

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