

Hungry Caterpillar Math

The children will work as a group to count and feed the hungry caterpillar the food items mentioned in Eric Carle's [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#).

- Materials:
 - The Hungry Caterpillar Math Printables [\(5-26\)](#) [\(5-27\)](#) [\(5-28\)](#)
 - Depending on your long term desires with this printable, you may wish to laminate them before use.
 - 1 Container with an opening big enough for a child's hand to fit through such as an empty plastic baby wipes box or empty disinfecting cleaning wipes plastic container or even a simple box.
 - Scissors
 - Tape
- Preparation Directions to do BEFORE the children arrive:
 - Cut out the caterpillar head. Use scissors to cut the mouth out so it makes an open slit that children can place food through.
 - Tape the caterpillar head on the top of a container with an opening large enough to slide a hand through such as an empty baby wipes box. When affixing the caterpillar head on the container make sure to match up the opening of the caterpillar's mouth with the opening of the container.
 - Depending on what you use for your container, you may need to create your own opening. Do this by cutting out a hole in the container or box that matches the open slit for caterpillar's mouth. Then affix the caterpillar head to the container making sure to make the slit of the caterpillar's mouth to the opening in the container.
 - Cut out each piece of food on the Hungry Caterpillar Food Printables
- Using Eric Carle's book [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#) as a resource, review with the children what the caterpillar ate on Monday. Let one child "feed" the caterpillar by placing 1 paper apple through the caterpillar's mouth and letting it fall into the container.
 - Teach, "On Monday the caterpillar ate 1 apple." as the child places the apple in the mouth of the caterpillar.
- Next let another child find in the book what the caterpillar ate on Tuesday, and feed the caterpillar the two paper pears.
 - Teach, "On Tuesday the caterpillar ate 2 pears. While the child places the pears in the mouth of the caterpillar help the children count....1 pear...2 pears."
- Let another child review in the story what the caterpillar ate on Wednesday and feed the caterpillar 3 paper plums.
 - Teach, "How many plums did the caterpillar eat on Wednesday? 3 Plums." Count each plum as the child places them in one at a time in the caterpillar's mouth.

- Follow the same structure for the 4 strawberries eaten by the caterpillar on Thursday and the 5 oranges eaten on Friday.
- The children will enjoy feeding the caterpillar the junk food eaten on Saturday and you may want to split up the food among them. Count each item from 1 to 10 as the children feed the caterpillar the chocolate cake, ice cream cone, pickle, cheese, salami, lollipop, cherry pie, sausage, cupcake, and watermelon.
- Ask the children if they remember what the caterpillar ate on Sunday. Find the answer in the book and then feed the caterpillar the leaf.
- Now comes the big number counting fun! Dump out all the eaten food items from the caterpillar and count each item one by one to find how many things the caterpillar ate in total!

