



June 24, 2015 | by Natalie Chari

Lesson Plan: Phonics With The Very Hungry Caterpillar

by Natalie Chari

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EL ADJUSTMENTS ☐ OFF

Grade **Preschool, Kindergarten**

Subject **Reading & Writing**

- Reading Fiction
 - Fiction Genres
 - Reading Storybooks
- Phonological Awareness
 - Hearing Beginning Sounds
- Letter Knowledge
 - Recognizing Letters

Materials and Preparation

- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- Phonics Fun: C is for Caterpillar activity
- Colored construction paper
- Markers or pens
- Colored pencils

Related Books and/or Media

- **GAME:** [Roly's Blending Sounds Quiz](#)
- **VIDEO:** [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#)

Key Terms

- phonics
- metamorphosis

Learning Objectives

Students will have a basic understanding of metamorphosis and be able to recognize the /c/ sound.

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Inform your students of the lesson's main topic: **metamorphosis**, or how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly.
- Show them the cover of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and ask them what they think a caterpillar eats.

Explicit Instruction/Teacher Modeling (20 minutes)

- Read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* aloud.
- Go over some things that can be learned from the book. Examples include: the different stages of metamorphosis, number sequences, vocabulary (specifically, the names of food and days of the week), and nutrition (specifically, the effects of junk food).
- To gauge student comprehension, ask questions such as: *Why did the caterpillar get a stomachache after eating a lot of junk food?*

Phonics Fun: C is for Caterpillar

By the age of four, most children are able to recite the alphabet. This is always so exciting to watch – but parents, beware. There's crucial work ahead as kids learn to connect all those letters with their sounds. You can expect lots of work in school, but don't hesitate to help at home, too. Here's an activity that you can do on a rainy afternoon when everywhere you look outside you are sure to spot a caterpillar or two.

What You Need:

- 1 large sheet of light-colored construction paper (white is best)
- 3-4 sheets of construction paper in various colors
- 5-6 large cutouts of the letter "C", approximately 4" tall
- Crayons or washable markers
- Glue

What You Do:

1. Begin this activity either by reading one of the many books about caterpillars or by taking a field trip outside, particularly in the spring, on a sidewalk hunt for caterpillars. Children love to observe and play with these fuzzy little creatures. You may even want to talk to them or read a story about how the caterpillar will in a short time become a beautiful butterfly.
2. Next, return inside to begin making your very own caterpillar. Discuss how the word "caterpillar" begins with a "c" sound and ask if he remembers what letter in the alphabet makes that "c" sound. He may at first mention the letter K. You may need to remind him that while that's correct, the letter K has a "k" sound that sometimes makes the same sound, the letter C. Tell your child that today you are going to make a drawing that will help him remember that sometimes the letter C can make a "c" sound as well.
3. Depending on your child's skill level with scissors, either cut for him or trace and have him cut 3-4 large letter "C"s onto different colored construction paper.
4. Either write for him or have him write "C is for Caterpillar" at the top of the large light-colored construction paper.
5. Have him glue the letter C cutouts to form a wavy line and make the body of a caterpillar.
6. Have him add to his "C" caterpillar a head with antennae legs and feet using crayons.
7. Encourage him to add a background as well to his picture, such as sun, grass, trees, etc.

This fun and simple project will serve as a reminder to your child that the letter C also makes a "c" sound. He will think about this activity for the months and years to come as he continues to strengthen these phonemic awareness skills by sounding out words and reading.



Guided Practice/Interactive Modeling (5 minutes)

- Begin a quick **phonics** (letter-sound correspondence) lesson by having students practice sounding out the letter C (/c/).
- Show them that the word caterpillar begins with the letter C. Sound out caterpillar, emphasizing the /c/ sound at the beginning.
- Ask the class to think of other words that start with C.

Independent Working Time (20 minutes)

- To review, ask the class what letter caterpillar begins with.
- Distribute the materials needed for the [Phonics Fun: C is for Caterpillar](#) activity, then have students work independently to complete it.

Differentiation

- **Enrichment:** Have advanced students write their own versions of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. For example, a student may write a version with a tadpole as the protagonist.
- **Support:** Show struggling students pictures of things that begin with the letter C. Help them understand that C makes a /c/ sound, and words that start with C usually have the /c/ sound in them.

Technology Integration

- An online video may be shown to help review the lesson.

Assessment (5 minutes)

- Ask the class to name the different stages of metamorphosis: 1) egg 2) caterpillar 3) cocoon 4) butterfly.
- Ask them again what letter caterpillar begins with and what sound C makes.

Review and Closing (5 minutes)

- If there's enough time remaining, show this animated video: [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#).

Related Learning Resources

workbook
Learn Beginning Sounds



workbook
Now I Know My ABCs



workbook

Tracing Practice for Preschool

