



# Activity Idea

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| <b>Activity</b> | Ordinal Number Sort with the Hungry Caterpillar |
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| <b>Possibilities for maths learning</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counting | <input type="checkbox"/> Composition        | <input type="checkbox"/> Cardinality       |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Subitise            | <input type="checkbox"/> Comparison         | <input type="checkbox"/> Measure           |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Shape               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pattern | <input type="checkbox"/> Spatial awareness |

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| <b>Resources</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The book, <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i> by Eric Carle</li> <li>➤ 7 cards with ordinal numbers representing the days – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup></li> <li>➤ Picture cards. On each of the cards, there should be a picture of what the caterpillar eats: 1 apple, 2 pears, 3 plums, 4 strawberries, 5 oranges, all 10 items that the caterpillar eats (chocolate cake, an ice-cream cone, a pickle, a slice of Swiss cheese, a slice of salami, a lollipop, a piece of cherry pie, a sausage, a cupcake, and a slice of watermelon) and 1 leaf.<br/><a href="http://www.mathematicshed.com/uploads/1/2/5/7/12572836/k-3_classics.hungry_caterpillar.pdf">http://www.mathematicshed.com/uploads/1/2/5/7/12572836/k-3_classics.hungry_caterpillar.pdf</a></li> <li>➤ If at all possible, try to laminate the cards so the game can be use again and again.</li> </ul> |
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| <b>Activity Outline</b> | <p>Introduce the book, <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i>. Explain that today you will read <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i> together as a group. If children are familiar with the story then you can remind them how the caterpillar eats lots of different things. Tell the children that while you are reading the book you would like them to keep track of what the caterpillar eats and in what order.</p> <p>Lay out the ordinal number cards in front and engage the children in supporting you to order these. Randomly place the picture cards in a nearby space. Explain that as you read the story you will ask the children to help you create a sequence of events in order that they happen.</p> <p><i>“He started to look for some food. On Monday, he ate through one apple.”</i> Ask the children: <i>“So what is the first food item the caterpillar eats?”</i> (One apple). Invite one of the children to pick up the picture of the apple and to place it underneath the ordinal card which says 1<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>Continue reading and charting the caterpillar’s eating sequence. When you have finished reading the book, the ordinal cards 1st-7th should have corresponding food items placed underneath. Using the sequence that has been created, ask children questions using ordinal numbers as a point of reference. For example, <i>‘What was the second thing the caterpillar ate?’</i> (2 pears) <i>‘Who can list all of the food that the caterpillar ate on</i></p> |
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*the 6th day?’ (chocolate cake, ice cream...) ‘What was the last thing the caterpillar ate before he turned into a big, beautiful butterfly?’ (One green leaf).*

**Extension Opportunities**

- ✓ Extend the strip past a seventh position and have the children make up the meals that the caterpillar would eat now that he is a butterfly. You can start at first again and ask, ‘*On his first day as a butterfly, what did he eat?*’ Or you can continue the sequencing and ask: ‘*What did the new butterfly eat on the eighth day?*’