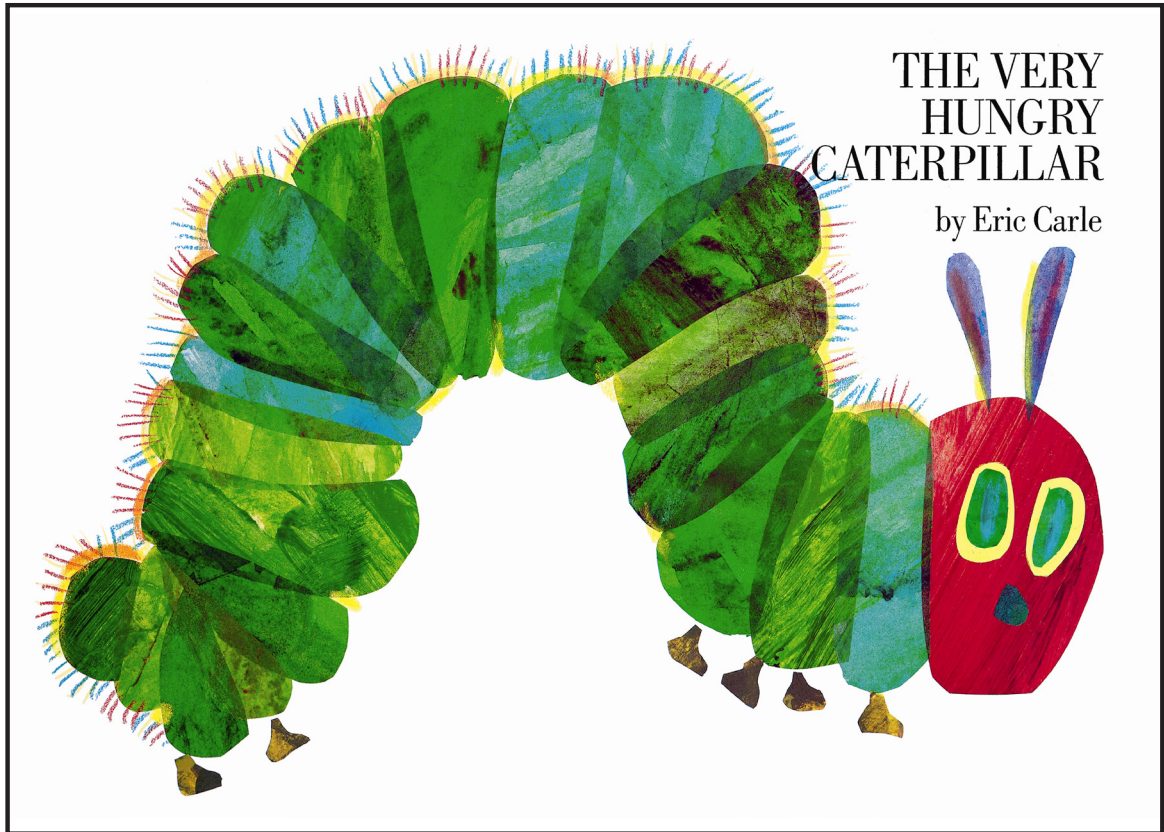
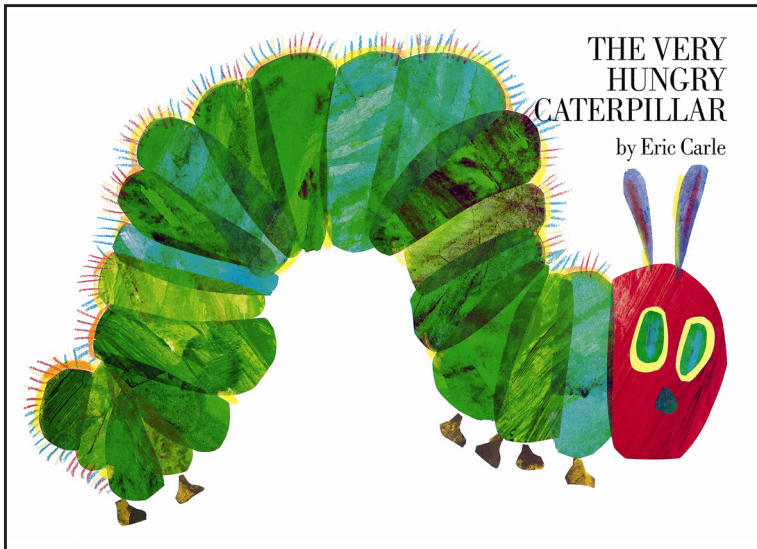




# The Very Hungry Caterpillar Early Years Resource Pack



**pacey**  
professional association for  
childcare and early years



## Early Years Resource Pack for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

Welcome to *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* Early Years Resource Pack. As a childcare professional, you have a wonderful opportunity to help instil a love of stories and books in the children you care for. This pack is designed for you to use alongside Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and will provide a rich source of ideas and activities, all linked to the early learning frameworks in England and Wales.

### The importance of literacy in the early years

Literacy is an essential skill that has an impact on our life chances. Made up of reading, writing, speaking and listening, literacy begins in a baby's earliest days. Research shows that babies in the womb are tuning in to their mother's voice and the patterns of their home language several weeks before birth.

Once born, reading, talking and singing to babies helps form the basis of language, and sharing books together helps reinforce the bond between children and trusted adults.

As children grow, developing an enjoyment of books can help reinforce these essential literacy skills, supporting them learn to read, write, speak, and listen. Everyone working in early years needs to have a clear understanding of literacy, and the many ways that it can be supported.

"A shared story between a child and a familiar, loved adult has a huge impact on children's interest and motivation for reading later on." – Penny Tassoni, PACEY President and childcare author.

### The story behind the story

One day Eric Carle was punching holes with a hole puncher into a stack of paper, and thought of a bookworm, leading him to create a story called *A Week with Willi the Worm*. Later his editor, who didn't like the idea of a worm, suggested a caterpillar. Eric said "Butterfly!" and the rest is history.

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* has won over millions of readers with its vivid collage illustrations and deceptively simple story to become Britain's most read children's book. Through its bright artwork, gentle repetition and an assortment of foods, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is the perfect introduction to early learnings like numbers, colours and days of the week for your little bookworms.

Above all, Eric Carle's delightful story sends an inspiring message to its readers about growing up and entering the big, wide world. "This book is about HOPE. It says: you too can grow up and unfold your wings and fly away" – **Eric Carle**



### **Aligning your activities with EYF Learning in England and Wales.**

Children's books are a rich source of learning. By linking the story – and activities inspired by the story – to the areas of learning for children in England and Wales, childcare professionals can work with children's interests to inspire and encourage their learning.

It's important to remember that not all children develop at the same rate, or meet development goals in the same order as one another. Early years and childcare professionals play a key role in identifying these differences and supporting individual children to learn.

Where children have English as an additional language, it's important to share stories in their home language as well. A richly visual book, such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, is ideal to share in several languages and explore how words in different languages describe the same scenes.

Throughout this pack, we've identified where activities inspired by the book meet areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage in England, and the Foundation Phase in Wales. You may also find that the activities you do meet other areas too, depending on the child's age and stage of development.



**Communication and language (England) // Language, literacy and communication skills (Wales)**



**Physical development (England and Wales)**



**Personal, social and emotional development (England) // Personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity (Wales)**



**Literacy (England) // Language, literacy and communication skills (Wales)**



**Mathematics (England) // Mathematical development (Wales)**



**Understanding the world (England) // Knowledge and understanding of the world (Wales)**



**Expressive arts and design (England) // Creative development (Wales)**



## **Activities**

NOTE: When using this pack, please ensure that all activities are adapted to suit the ages and stages of the children and that you cater to any allergies or dietary intolerances.

-  **Learn and play with *The Very Hungry Caterpillar***
-  **Look for caterpillars in the garden**
-  **Spotting baby animals**
-  **Make a home for the caterpillar**
-  **Make a tree**
-  **The life of a Very Hungry Caterpillar**
-  **Beautiful butterflies**
-  **Springtime sounds**
-  **Very Hungry Caterpillar collage making**
-  **Our favourite foods**
-  **Make a fruity smoothie**
-  **For parents and professionals**



### **About PACEY**

PACEY is the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years. Formed in 1977, we are a not-for-profit membership association dedicated to supporting childcare professionals to deliver high quality care and early learning for children.

We provide expert support, training and resources to childcare professionals across England and Wales, and offer advice and peer support through our nationwide network of PACEY Local groups. We represent the views and experiences of practitioners to government regulators and decision makers and champion their vital role in helping children get the best start in life.

**So, if you're not already a member of your professional association, join PACEY today**

**[www.pacey.org.uk/join](http://www.pacey.org.uk/join)**





# Learn and play with The Very Hungry Caterpillar!



## Numbers

- Count the colours
- Count the fruits
- Count the days of the week



## Food

- What food does *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* eat?
- What are your favourite foods?



## Alphabet

- What sound does pear begin with?
- Find other foods in the story that begin with the same sound as pear.



## Days of the week

- What did *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* eat on Tuesday?
- On which day does *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* eat a pear?



## Colours

- What colour is each kind of food that appears in *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*?
- What colour food do you like to eat?



## Nature

- Do you know where *The Very Hungry Caterpillar's* food comes from?
- Do apples grow on trees or in the ground?
  - What do plants need to grow?





# Look for caterpillars in the garden

Can you go outside on a nature walk and explore the outdoors while looking for insects and animals.

Here are some good words to describe caterpillars:

**Green**

**Spiky**

**Wriggly**

**Yellow**

**Fluffy**

**Curly**

**Orange**

**Dotty**

**Bendy**



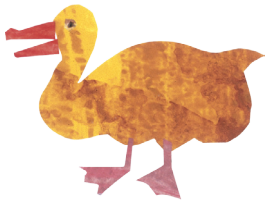
Do you know other words?



# Spotting baby animals

Can you name the baby animals you have seen and heard?  
Keep your eyes and ears open.

Tick them off when you've spotted them!



**Ducklings**

**Piglets**

**Lambs**

**Chicks**

**Fox cubs**

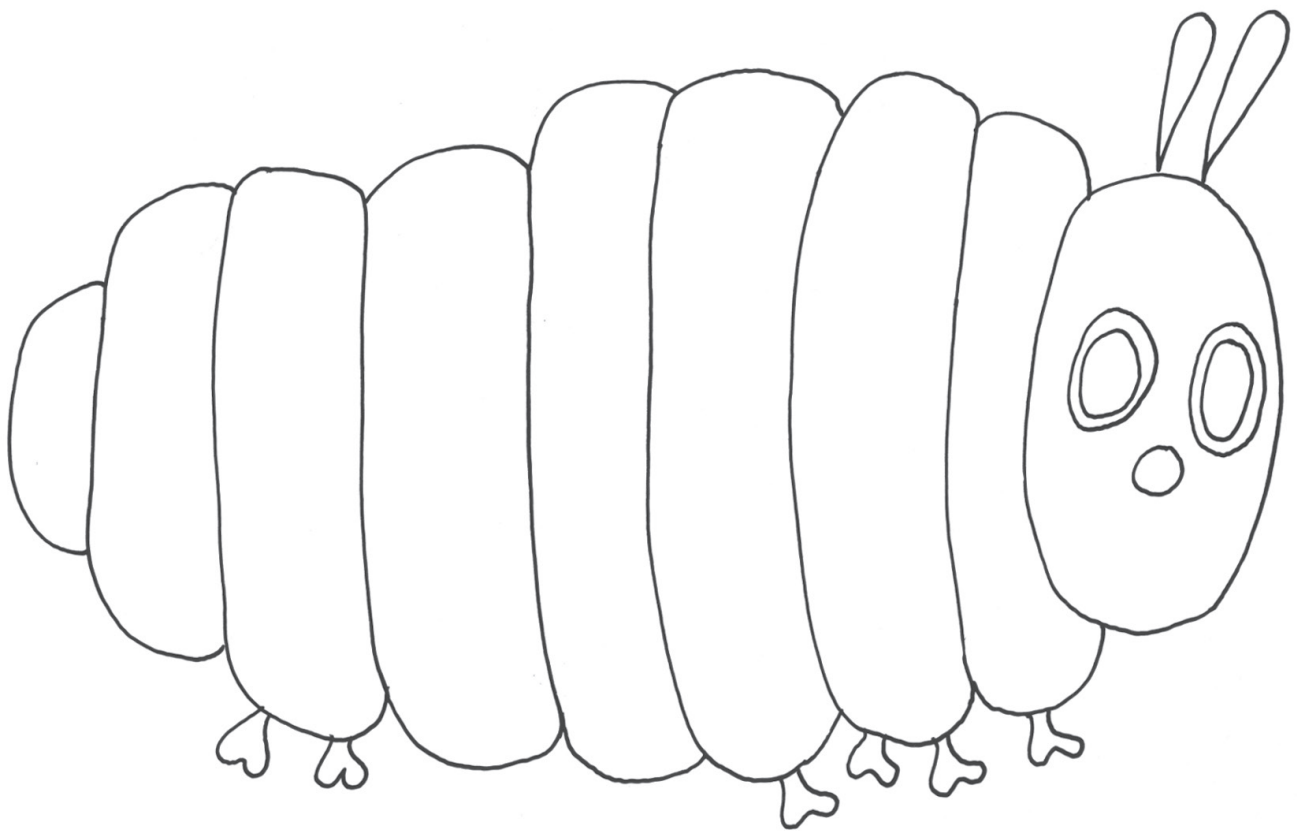




# Make a home for The Very Hungry Caterpillar

**The caterpillar is very full.  
Can you make a place for him to rest?**

Gather together leaves, wool, paper pieces and other materials, and stick them down in the space below the caterpillar to make a cosy place for him to sleep.







# Make a tree

**This leaf is part of a tree.**

The Very Hungry Caterpillar was born on a leaf.  
Can you draw the whole tree that this leaf is a part of?



**Create a 3D tree!**

Collect twigs or a small branch that has fallen from a tree. If there are no twigs nearby, you could use straws. Stick the twig to some clay or plasticine for a secure base. Make leaves by tearing or cutting paper or tissue paper, and attach them to the tree with string or twine.



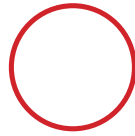


# The life of a Very Hungry Caterpillar

Can you write the number in each circle in the order of the life cycle of a butterfly?

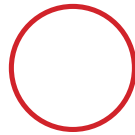
## 1. Egg on a leaf

This egg is very, very small.  
(It is also **sticky**, so it won't  
**fall** off the leaf.)



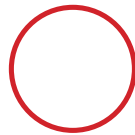
## 2. Hungry Caterpillar

When a caterpillar comes out  
of his egg, first he eats the **egg**,  
then the **leaf**, and he doesn't stop  
**eating** (not even to **sleep!**).



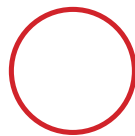
## 3. Cocoon

This cocoon is spun from **sticky  
thread**. **Inside** it, the caterpillar is  
using the **energy** stored from all  
that **food** to make something very  
**special** happen ...



## 4. Butterfly

When the butterfly **pushes** out  
of the **cocoon**, his wings are all wet.  
So he **spreads** them out and lets  
them **dry** before he takes **off** and  
**flies** for the first time!

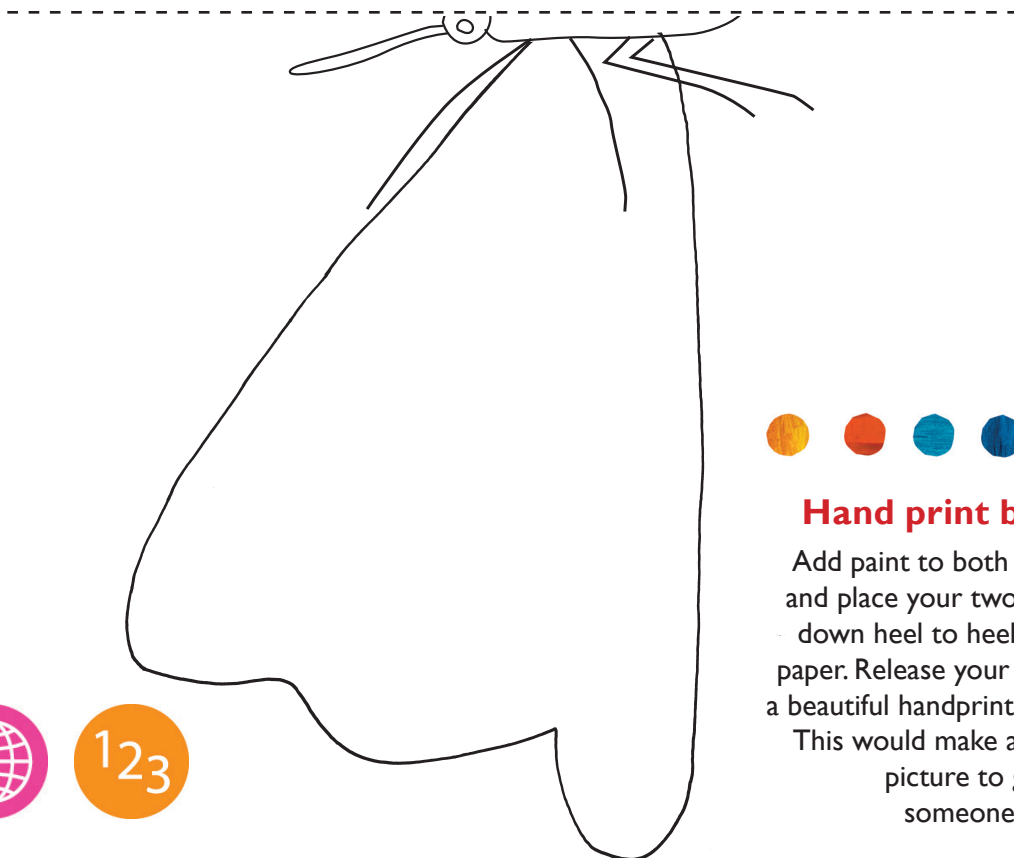




# Beautiful butterflies

Can you paint the half of the butterfly wing below with thick poster paint in colours you like. Then fold the paper along the dotted line to copy the paint to the other side.

Both sides of the butterfly's wings should now be symmetrical.



## Hand print butterflies

Add paint to both of your hands, and place your two painted hands down heel to heel on a piece of paper. Release your hands to reveal a beautiful handprint butterfly image! This would make a great card or picture to give to someone else.





# Springtime sounds

Can you draw a line to match up these animals  
with the noises they make.



**quack!**

**crunch crunch!**

**cheep cheep!**

**baa!**

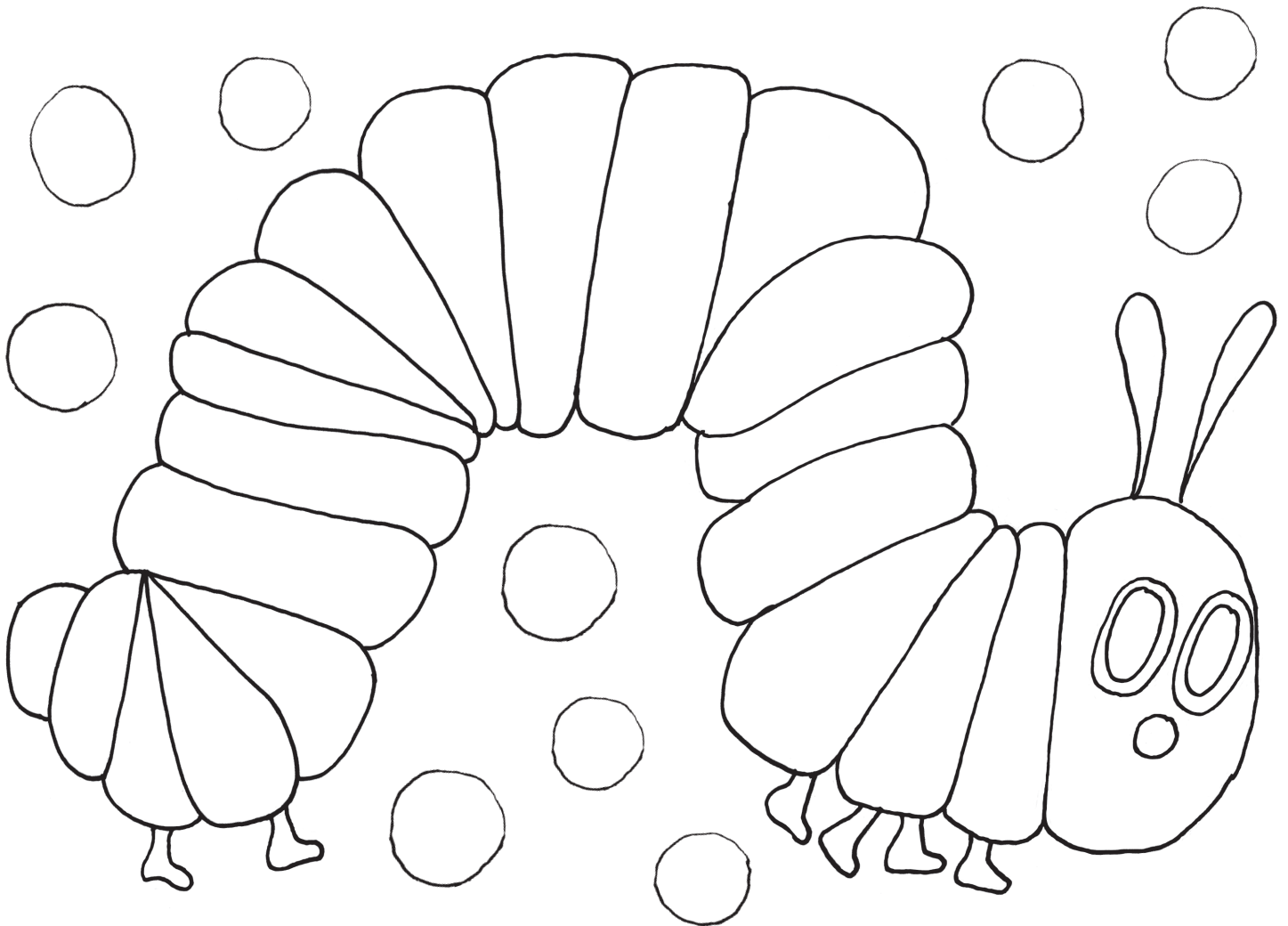




# The Very Hungry Caterpillar collage making

By Eric Carle and .....

You can use lots of different materials to make your *Very Hungry Caterpillar*, including coloured crayons, tissue paper and coloured card. This will give your picture lots of different colours and textures.

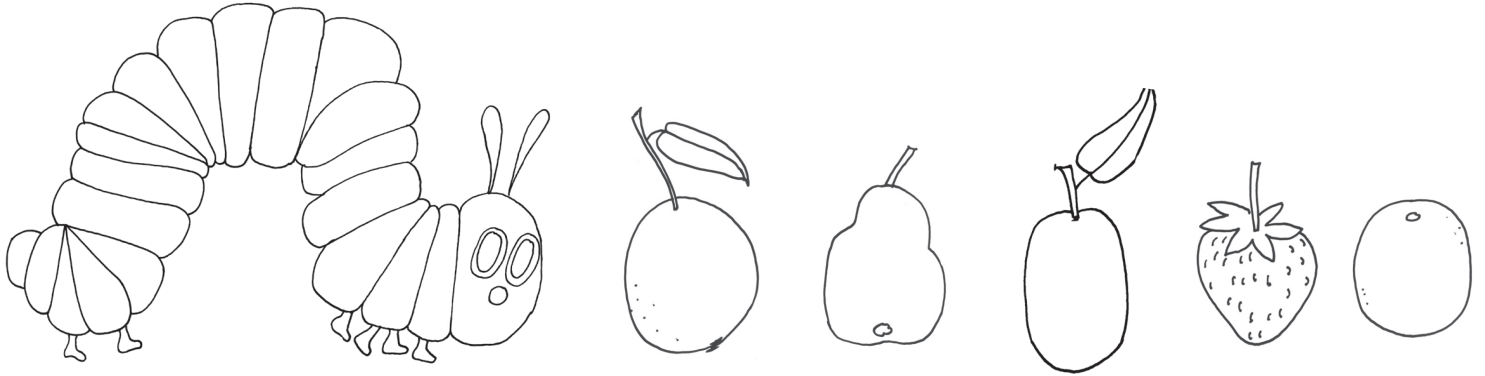




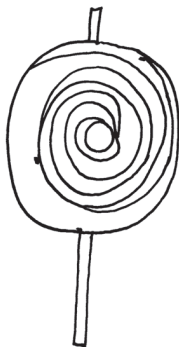
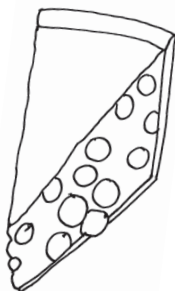
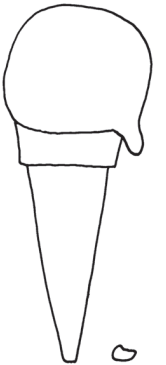
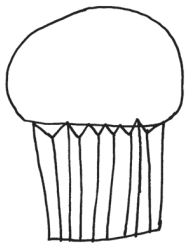
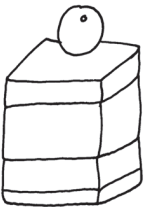


# Our favourite foods

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* loves to eat a delicious,  
colourful, great big lunch!



What is your favourite food? Can you draw it here for  
*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to try!





# Make a fruity smoothie

**The Very Hungry Caterpillar** loves to eat fruit. His favourites are apples, pears, plums, strawberries and oranges.



Mix these fruits together to make smoothies. Remember to always ask for a grown-up's help when you're using a blender!



## Top Tip

Bananas are also very tasty, and they make a great starting ingredient for any smoothie.





## For parents and professionals

### Activity reflection

What learning outcomes did you observe when completing these activities?

### Get in touch!

We'd love to hear about your *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* events! From photos and stories of the day itself, to feedback on what went well and suggestions for improving our packs, please do let us know.

Email [puffin@penguin.co.uk](mailto:puffin@penguin.co.uk) or Tweet us [@PuffinBooks](https://twitter.com/PuffinBooks) with your thoughts and stories - we can't wait to hear from you.