

# EARLY YEARS SCIENCE PROVISION MAP

## Play, Observe & Ask

### Sensory Play

**Learn:** to use senses of sight, touch and smell to identify and describe some natural and non-natural materials

**You need:** leaves, selection of real fruit (some cut into pieces), plastic play food, soft toy caterpillars and butterflies

**Play, observe & ask**

- Can you describe what you can see/feel/smell?
- Which textures do you like/don't you like?
- Which smells do you like/don't you like?

### Construction

**Learn:** to identify and name different fruits

**You need:** Lego® or similar construction material

**Play, observe & ask:**

- Can you build models of some of the food items the Very Hungry Caterpillar ate through.
- Can you name the fruits?
- What colour blocks do you need to build a strawberry, watermelon, etc.?

### Small World



**Learn:** the names of different small animals (minibeasts); similarities and differences between animals

**You need:** woodland play mat, artificial grass or bark, small logs, leaves, plastic insects and other minibeasts, magnifying glasses

**Play, observe & ask:**

- What is the name of this minibeast?
- How many legs does this minibeast have?
- Does this minibeast have wings?
- Can you tell me the names of any body parts?
- Can you sort and describe these minibeasts?

### Malleable Play



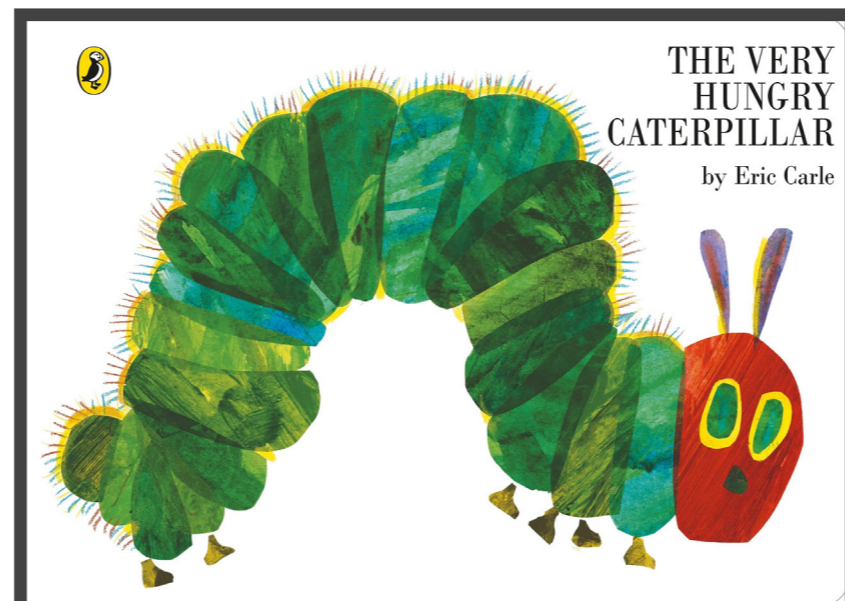
**Learn:** the lifecycle of a caterpillar

**You need:** paper plate, playdough or plasticine, crayon or felt tip, pipe cleaners, tissue paper, pompoms, pegs, twigs

Divide the paper plate into quarters for each stage of the lifecycle.

**Play observe & ask:**

- Where do caterpillars come from?
- What do caterpillars really eat?
- How do caterpillars become butterflies?
- What happens to the butterflies?
- Can you make a model of the egg/caterpillar/chrysalis/butterfly stage?



### Role Play

**Learn:** which foods are healthy and which are unhealthy

**You need:** caterpillar masks or headbands with antennae, play food, laminated leaves, twigs and branches, sleeping bags, large pillow cases or boxes for cocoon, butterfly wings

**Play, observe & ask:**

- Can you retell the story as if you were the caterpillar?
- Which food would you like to eat? Why?
- What would the caterpillars like to eat to stay healthy?
- Can you sort healthy and unhealthy food?

### Outdoors

**Learn:** differences between animals; some animals are camouflaged

**You need:** short lengths of different coloured wool

Distribute the lengths of wool around your outdoor area. Give the children a fixed amount of time to find as many 'caterpillars' as possible.

**Play, observe & ask:**

- How many caterpillars of each colour did you find?
- Which colours were easier to find?
- What colours were more difficult to find?
- Why do you think some caterpillars are camouflaged?
- Why are some caterpillars brightly coloured even though they are less camouflaged?

### Key Science Vocabulary

fruit - apple, pear, plum, strawberry, orange, watermelon

food, healthy, unhealthy

properties of materials - soft, hard, smooth, rough, hairy, smelly, sticky

life cycle, egg, hatch, caterpillar, chrysalis, cocoon, butterfly

body parts: head, body, leg, wing, antennae

camouflage, hide, predator, prey

minibeasts: worm, spider, fly, woodlouse, etc.

### Further Science

Hatch butterflies in the classroom. Kits are commercially available.