

Caterpillar Counters

Written and Illustrated by Ruth Grimes ©2009



Collect, clean and use plastic milk bottle lids as Character counters in your play learning. Count 1 to 10, or more – and using laces or wool, join together the lids counting on as each is added..

Make the Caterpillar – or other chosen Character individual by marking out a face. Use sticky pads to attach the paper / card head over the tied lace and enable role play ..



Secure the Head Counter:

1



2



3



4



5



1 - 3 - Cut 2 holes in a bottle lid – thread the cord through both holes – and knot.
4 and 5 - Attach sticky pads and then the face / head

Ideas and setting up environments:

A play area tray, basket or carpet play ..

Sand tray discovery - Place the lids, laces, card circles/heads: pre attached to a lid & lace, pencils in the sand tray for free play. Introduce find and count activities, and fine motor skill threading.

Soil tunnels - in the soil or compost tray turn the caterpillars into worms! Ask, why the soil worms may of turned green .. ?' change if a differing lid colour is used.

See what ideas are given and how everyone reacts to them ..

A few suggestions to help communications ..

They're feeling a bit sick ..

They've all been to the hairdressers ..

Everyone ate pea soup for tea

For factual references the plastic is dyed green / red / blue at manufacture to help show which is Full Fat, Semi Skimmed and Skimmed milk.

Add number lines, rulers and written number formations to help the Children with numeral recognition.

At the Activities end:

Safeguard self esteem and wellbeing by asking the Children if they want a photograph taken of their Caterpillar and face. This will ensure the Caterpillar can be remade if taken apart or accidentally damaged.

Sheet of Caterpillar Heads - Faces.

Use these - plain circles or other items to give character to the characters
Use white stickers for eyes and collage items to decorate.

