

What can I do with...

... egg cartons?



You will be practicing:

- Literacy: story time ('A very hungry Caterpillar')
- Fine motor skills
- PSED - self help
- Arts and crafts
- Maths - problem solving - matching colours
- Maths - numeral to quantity
- Phonics - blending and segmenting simple CVC words;

1. **The Very Hungry Caterpillar story:**

- **Make a caterpillar:** cut off a row from an egg carton; colour it together with your child (don't worry if you don't have googly eyes or pipe cleaners - you can draw the eyes and fashion the antennae out of paper).
- **Make a butterfly:** follow this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIRHtHM8RAE> for instructions;
- **Read the story:** read the story using the props; make sure you read it slowly and let your child explore the art of the book and the props; encourage them to use the props during the story; make crunching sounds for when the caterpillar is eating; if you do not own the book, follow this link with the online animated version:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQK-Sm1YY&list=PLXftHQbYWxsGCFhrtPZczmFJoITGyuCki>



## 2. Straws in a hole:

Turn the egg carton upside down. Make holes in the bottom of all the sections (scissors should do fine). You can colour the bottoms according to the straws you have at home if you want to make it a bit harder. Ask your child to put a straw in each hole (demonstrate the first two. If you decide to colour each bottom section to make it harder, make sure you name the colours as your child picks up a straw to help them initially. You can also use colourful pipe cleaners for this activity.



## 3. Shoe lacing:

Turn the egg carton upside down. Make holes in the bottom of each section. Use a shoelace. Show your child very slowly, step by step, how you thread the lace through the holes and encourage them to help you. Gradually withdraw your support and see them finish off the lacing by themselves. Then demonstrate tying the initial knot on the shoelace. Do it several times and ask them to join in. Then move on to tying the bow. Make sure you do everything very slowly. This will take good several times for beginners, so make this activity short but repeat it frequently.



#### 4. Egg carton counting:

Write numbers 1-10 (depending on the size of your carton and the ability of your child) inside each section. You can make them go in order or (1, 2, 3, 4...), if you want to make it more difficult, you can randomize them (e.g. 2, 5, 1, 3 ...). As counter use any small objects you can find around the house (dry beans, peas, buttons, marbles, pebbles that you can collect with your child during a walk in the park, etc.). Demonstrate putting the right amount of the items into the correct section and then ask your child to do the same. Remember to point out the numeral at the bottom of the carton and to count out loud one by one when you are putting the counters in the sections.



#### 5. Matching colours:

Colour the inside of each egg slot with a different colour. Put small colourful objects in the lid part of the box (you can use buttons, like in the picture, or maybe small toys and figurines with defined colours, Lego or larger plastic/wooden blocks, cars, craft pompoms, balls of play dough, marbles, etc.). Initially, you do not need more than one item of each colour. Demonstrate matching the item to the slot with the same colour. Remember to name the colour each time you do it. Ask your child to join you.



## 6. Making short words:

Cut out separate egg slots, turn them over and write graphemes (letters that make up a sound) on the top. Find pictures of things you want your child to write on the internet (you can print them out or just show them to your child on screen during the activity. Make sure the words are short and simple CVC words (e.g. cat, pig, tap, mug, cup, cap, bat, cut, mat, rat, fog, cog, log, etc.).

Demonstrate making a word. E.g. "cat":

- Show the cat in the picture, say "cat". Then split it into separate letter sounds c-a-t (please do not use letter names - instead, use the sound that the letter makes in the word, e.g. for letter "c" use /k/ rather than "cee", for letter "a" use /uh/ rather than "ei", and for letter "t" use /t/ rather than "tee". Please see this video for an example <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ovJIXTQpsU> ).
- Choose the correct letters and put them together to make the word. Say each sound as you put them down. Ask your child to join in with making the sounds and putting the letters together. Please remember to read the whole word when it's made (c-a-t, cat).
- If you think your child might struggle with this, you can make it easier by writing the letters on a piece of paper in the right order and asking them to match the sounds on the egg slots. Remember to say or ask your child to say each letter sound as they match them and read/ask your child to read the whole word.

