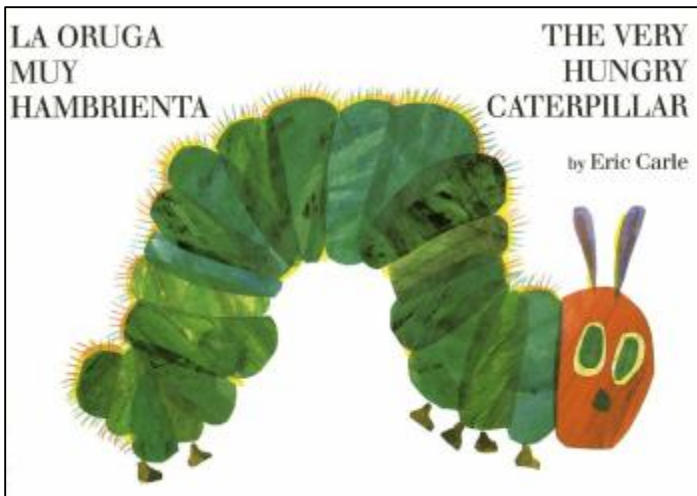


The Little Read



A Book Report
Week of the Young Child
April 2012

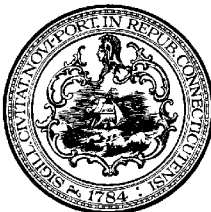
To celebrate the 2012 Week of the Young Child, the New Haven Early Childhood Council organized its third annual literacy event -- The Little Read -- a citywide reading of the bilingual book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar/La oruga muy hambrienta, distributing over 4,000 copies of this beautiful Eric Carle book to children.

The Council also partnered with community organizations that hosted an array of literacy-based events throughout the City and provided over 1,000 children's picture books for home libraries.

The week began at City Hall, where Policewoman Rose Dell read the book, Keeping You Safe. Each of the children received a copy of the book for their home library.



We thank Mayor John DeStefano, Jr., the City of New Haven Community Services Administration, the New Haven Board of Education and the Board of Alderman for supporting The Little Read and our citywide literacy initiative.



It Takes a Whole City

It takes a whole city to raise every child to be a reader!

At each of these community-based sites, children, and their families, participated in exciting events and were given a new, theme-related children's picture book to extend the learning and support emerging readers. These many interactive reading events happened in many places, including:

- Yale Leitner Family Observatory and Planetarium for a moonlit evening of star-gazing.
- Miya's Restaurant for sushi-making.



- Community Action Agency.
- Clifford Beers Clinic.
- DSS – Department of Social Services.

- CitySeed Farmers' Market for seed planting.



- Yale Sustainable Farm to explore the garden.



- New Haven Free Public Library for a performance by a New Haven Symphony Orchestra violinist.



- Community Parent Engagement Network at Lincoln-Bassett School playground to celebrate Earth Day.



- New Haven Home Recovery Family Night
- Nurturing Family Program at the NH Health Department.
- New Haven Free Public Library Fair Haven and Westville branches reading Eric Carle.
- Books & Co./Legal Grounds bookstore all-day readings.
- Connecticut Children’s Museum for a Creating Readers drama performance with the Stage & Story Troupe.
- Eli Whitney Museum for a building project.



- The CCC’s Nurturing Families Network.
- ‘r Kids Family Center.
- New Haven Reads!
- Fair Haven Community Health Clinic.
- NHPS Social Development Department.

The Little Read

The Council partnered with early childhood classrooms, libraries, family childcare homes, and social service agencies to implement The Little Read. Each site organized innovative and fun family reading events to celebrate Week of the Young Child and to highlight the importance of literacy for our youngest children.

The mission of the New Haven Early Childhood Council is to ensure that all New Haven children, birth through 8, are healthy, safe, thriving in nurturing families, and prepared to be successful lifelong learners. The Little Read engages families in literacy-based activities and provides families across the City with new children's picture books to encourage reading at home.

We congratulate the directors and early childhood educators in classrooms and in family childcare homes throughout the City who organized inviting events for Week of the Young Child and provided reading opportunities for thousands of families. We applaud the many community organizations that hosted events where families could learn together and build their home libraries.

We also thank First Book, an organization with the mission to ensure that all children have access to books in their home, for their support in securing books for The Little Read.

The New Haven Early Childhood Council is proud to share some of The Little Read stories from around the City.



Bethesda Nursery School

305 St. Ronan Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 787-5439

The Week of the Young Child and The Little Read were happily celebrated this year. All of us -- children, families, and teachers -- were particularly pleased by the choice of book this year, The Very Hungry Caterpillar. To quote one of our kids, "Well, I already have this book at home—but not in Spanish; so this is great!"



We did our readings on Thursday and Friday. For Thursday, we had parents read the English and Spanish versions.

Another parent provided a Bengali version. We didn't have a printed Bengali version, but the parent very kindly made a cover for us with Bengali lettering. On Friday, we again had parents read the Spanish and English versions, while two of our students read the book in Japanese. On both days everyone had a good time reading and listening to the different-sounding versions. The "Saturday" page, with "chocolate cake, ice cream cone, pickle, etc." was a big hit both days.

To make our own caterpillar, we sent home paper circles for each child & family to decorate in their own way. We've mounted the returned circles on the wall: the enormous caterpillar gets longer every day!

Bishop Woods School Pre-K

1481 Quinnipiac Avenue
New Haven, CT 06513
203 946-8623

During Week of the Young Child, our families came to share special books with our classroom. We laughed and enjoyed diverse and unique stories and finger plays.



We held a “make it and take it” session where we read The Very Hungry Caterpillar and made a butterfly with our families.

Parents also visited us during our school day to help us make a picture frame with our self portrait. Our ice cream social and special family breakfast brought us together for some yummy treats and gave our families a chance to socialize with each other, make new friends and celebrate Week of the Young Child!



Calvin Hill Daycare Center

150 Highland Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 764-9350

Calvin Hill Day Care Center and the Kitty Lustman-Findling Kindergarten had several events celebrating the Week of the Young Child, including Literacy celebrations and Earth Day.

All children at Calvin Hill were given the book The Very Hungry Caterpillar/La Oruga Muy Hambrienta in conjunction with the Spring Pot Luck Supper, an annual event organized by the Calvin Hill Parent Committee. Nearly all families attended.

Teachers also made a special point to read and share the book with children at the Center. Parents and children were thrilled with the bilingual book. Several of our families remarked they were so excited to have a familiar book in their first language (Spanish) as well as in English for their children who are learning both languages.



At the spring pot luck supper, we had a wonderful puppet show performed by Betty Baisden (Roxy Fox Puppets) focusing on Earth Day and Recycling. Children were enthralled and were able to recount and retell the story in great detail and with much delight.

Altogether, The Little Read and the Week of the Young Child were fun and enriching experiences for all of the children at Calvin Hill.

Centro San Jose School Readiness Program Catholic Charities

290 Grand Avenue
790 Grand Avenue
New Haven, CT 06513
203 777-6771



This year we celebrated Week of the Young Children with the reading of the The Very Hungry Caterpillar at our annual Art Show. Teachers recreated the book with a lively reading for families with all the actual foods from the book. After the reading, all the families looked around at the art show and enjoyed eating all the foods from The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The families were most excited about trying all the different foods and getting a copy of the book to take home!

We also had Mayor John DeStefano come visit our classroom, look at our art work and read the children The Very Hungry Caterpillar. He was very animated with his reading and the



children loved reading with him. He knew how to engage them!

Children's Preschool

608 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
203 777-2491

At the Children's Preschool, the Week of the Young Child and The Little Read were celebrated by hosting a pancake and PJ's breakfast. Families arrived and had pancakes, fresh fruit just like in the book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and juice or milk together.



After eating breakfast parents were encouraged to stay for a short time and read The Very Hungry Caterpillar to their child. Many parents not only read to their child, but built with blocks, painted at the easel, and worked with clay.

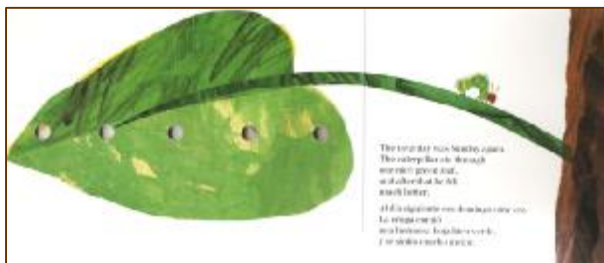
Columbus Academy NHPS School Readiness

255 Blatchley Avenue
New Haven, CT 06513
203 691-2500

We had different activities during Week of the Young Child to promote reading and literacy. We had a parent and a grandparent Read Aloud Day. We had a rally where the children made signs that said, “Mom and Dad, please read to me.” We marched and chanted through the school hallways and then rallied outside in front of the school to chant some more with child-size megaphones in hand.

The parents read and dramatized the book The Very Hungry Caterpillar using classroom materials to create the costumes. The parents helped the children create small puppet theaters and finger puppets. We also held a ZUMBA dance party; the certified instructor for the Zumba dance party was our kindergarten teacher, Ms. Ortiz! The Zumba party helped to transition the children and invited a community member to participate in the Week of the Young Child. One parent read a story, Growing Things, and then planted seeds with the children.

To close the Week of the Young Child, we had a pajama day where the



children, parents and staff shared readings of the focus book The Very Hungry Caterpillar. During dismissal, we distributed copies of The Very Hungry Caterpillar to all the children! We all enjoyed our Week of the Young Child!!!

Creating Kids Childcare Center

at the Connecticut Children's Museum

22 Wall Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 789-1622



On the morning of The Little Read, our parents and children arrived to find a collection of healthy muffins (thanks to one of our teachers) arranged in a pattern to look just like Eric Carle's very hungry caterpillar, along with a big bowl of fruit salad full of the fruits that the caterpillar ate! They filled their plates and enjoyed breakfast together before gathering in a big circle on the floor to listen to five of our parents reading the book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, in their native languages: French, Hebrew, Italian, Chinese and German, while one of our teachers read it in English! Each child received the book in their home language.



This was followed by a sing-a-long, led by George Melillo and his guitar, filled with songs inspired by the book.



Following the sing-a-long, each child received a copy of the book as his or her parents headed off to work. A lovely way to start the day!

Dwight Early Childhood Center NHPS School Readiness

1324 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 946-7214

To celebrate The Little Read at Dwight Early Childhood Center, we held what has become our annual “Breakfast Snack and a Story”. Our parents and families were invited to their child’s classroom to share the featured book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar. In each classroom, a parent led the shared reading of the book and families participated in a planned activity.



In Ms. Rowe’s class children and their parents created and colored the fruits, vegetables, and foods that the very hungry caterpillar ate and used them to act out the story. In Ms. Chioma’s class the children and their families recreated the book by using props to retell the story in the correct sequence.

During reading in Ms. Batson’s class, the children used props to become the caterpillar’s food and, after reading the book, the children and their families worked to create a tissue paper butterfly collage.

After all of their hard work, parents enjoyed a healthy and nutritious breakfast snack. One parent summed up the morning by saying, “It’s great to see the kids so excited about books and reading!”



Felicitas' Family Home Daycare

97 Judith Terrace
New Haven, CT 06513
203 466-2988



When we saw that this year's book was The Very Hungry Caterpillar, we were thrilled because it's one of the children's favorite books. We wanted to be creative, so, for the invitation we made a pom-pom caterpillar and a construction paper leaf inside a small glass lid jar, and handed them out to all the families.

We also wanted parents to participate, so we printed scenes from the book and each parent selected one scene from a bag. They needed to create the scene, painted or in collage, so they could share it with everyone during the book reading, and at the end, we created our own book. All the children made a hand-printed caterpillar and butterflies that were used to decorate and egg cartons to paint a caterpillar.



We scheduled the event on a Saturday, and that day we blew balloons to form a caterpillar

and hung them from the ceiling, we cut up apples, pears, plums, strawberries and oranges. We also had the foods the caterpillar ate and had a caterpillar cake. Our family activity was a caterpillar made out of cups, a pipe cleaner for the antenna, a string and eyes. At the end, everyone got a copy of the bi-lingual book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, shared a good time and got to meet new parents and, best of all, the children had a great time!



Gateway Community College Early Learning Center

60 Sargent Drive
New Haven, CT 06511
203 285-2132

Gateway Community College Early Learning Center held a family reading event on April 25th in the children's corner of the college library. The librarian, Martha Lipowski, read The Very Hungry Caterpillar in English, and Joshua Berrios, Male Involvement Coordinator, read the book in Spanish.

Props enhanced the storytelling, and Marge Weiner, Director, surprised everyone and became a butterfly! The children



followed suit and circled the room with her, each dancing as a beautiful butterfly.

The next morning, one of the children could not understand what had happened to Marge's wings!

The children ate the fruits from the story for their yummy afternoon snack.

Helene Grant Head Start – NHPS

185 Goffe Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 946-8666



Head Start recognizes the importance of fatherhood/male involvement in the lives of young children. On April 25, 2012, during Week of the Young Child, we promoted the importance of father/male involvement with a literacy activity. We have many single parent households with the mother as head of household. Many of our children do not see a father figure in the house. On this day, we invited male participation with a reading by a male volunteer in each classroom. We asked for volunteers with a poster that said: *Children love being read to. It's not every day that children see and hear a father/male reading to them. Bright eyes, open ears, and big smiles are what you will see!*

Sixteen Head Start fathers/males were identified to read The Hungry Caterpillar in each classroom. Following the reading, the identified father/male role model had his book signed by the classroom teacher for him to keep. After that, a light lunch was provided to the 16 men where they received a certificate of participation from the Fatherhood Coordinator and the building administrator. We are seeking to maintain the participation of these men for future father events and look forward to other fathers/men joining in the movement of fatherhood/male involvement in early education. Fathers make a difference in children's lives and Head Start is committed to supporting their involvement.



Leila Day Nursery

100 Cold Spring Street

New Haven, CT 06511

203 624-1374

We made our Week of the Young Child project a study of author and illustrator Eric Carle. We started the week with a group reading of our very own copies of The Very Hungry Caterpillar book! Children were very excited that they could have the books to keep! Families were asked to enjoy the story together in English and their home language.



Throughout the week, we read both familiar and new-to-us books by Eric Carle, paying close attention to the artwork. It was a pleasure to hear children call out with excitement, "This is by Eric Carle! Let's look at the end paper!" Children created paintings in his style by using tools and fingers to scratch on paintings, retelling his stories with stick puppets and cutting copies of his end papers to create collage circles, which were displayed in our front window as our very own caterpillar.

We had The Very Hungry Caterpillar on headphones for independent Read Alongs and felt board props for re-telling. We strung necklaces with pictures of fruit from the story and made caterpillars by taping strips of green paper together.

For a culminating activity, we brainstormed a list of fruits, and wrote a letter asking our families to contribute a piece of fruit for a Very Hungry Caterpillar FRUIT SALAD, which we made and shared on Friday to end the week. In addition to health and nutrition, there was a lot of math work in sorting, graphing, and representing all the fruit with unifix cubes! Plus delicious fruit salad!

In the South Group, we read The Very Hungry Caterpillar many times during the Week of the Young Child, both at group time and with individual children in the cozy reading corner.

After that, we played at being little caterpillars, looking for leaves to eat, curling up in our chrysalis, and emerging as amazing butterflies. The spring time weather certainly contributed to the enthusiasm and energy that fueled our little butterflies. Out on our playground there were wonderful, colorful, pint-sized butterflies everywhere! This week of fun and excitement was topped off with the thrilling event of receiving The Very Hungry Caterpillar board book to take home!



During the Week of the Young Child, the East Class read The Very Hungry Caterpillar many times. At the end of the week, a parent came to visit and read his very own Spanish copy from his childhood while one of the teachers read along in English.

LULAC Head Start

Fay Miller Center
250 Cedar Street
New Haven, CT 06519
203 777-4006

For the week of the young child, our classrooms took a trip around the world. As the hungry caterpillar did, they tasted and ate many different foods.

During their “trip” to Italy, our infants, toddlers and their families enjoyed eating various flavors of Italian Gelato.



Others in our preschool room took a trip to the island of Jamaica and were introduced to the colors of the Jamaican flag, as well as the many fruits that are found on the island.

LULAC Head Start

Mill River

375 James Street

New Haven, CT 06513

203 777-7501

The Very Hungry Caterpillar was read aloud by parents in Spanish and English, as the children and families performed the story. While the story was being read aloud, the children and families ate fruits and vegetables just as the very hungry caterpillar did!



Parents expressed joy at watching their children perform the same activities as the caterpillar in the story, and how it made a healthy snack more inviting.

At the close of the activity each child and family was presented the book for their reading enjoyment and to do a 'performance' in the home.

Melissa Rivera – Grandpa’s Family Daycare

282 Exchange Street
New Haven, CT 06513
203 260-5928

For Week of the Young Child, we used tape to draw the caterpillar and the butterfly on the floor. The classroom was set up full of Eric Carle books. The children loved finding all the new titles to share with their friends and families. We invited parents to read books to the children.



One of our fathers played the guitar, joined by his little boy and his child-size guitar, and sang with the children while everyone was eating fruit salad just like the book, [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#). The children were so excited to get their very own copy of the book to add to their home library!

Nathan Hale School PreK

480 Townsend Avenue
New Haven, CT 06512
203 946-5185

As part of our Week of the Young Child celebration we studied the author and illustrator Eric Carle. One week was



not enough time to showcase this amazing author/illustrator so it developed into a two week theme. We explored art techniques used in his literature. The children used their imaginations, using tissue paper and glue, to create their own art

interpretations. The children also built bug houses and bird houses to go along with the books read in class.

Our classroom centers offered different Eric Carle related-activities throughout the week. We were bakers in dramatic play when we read Walter the Baker and farmers when we read The Tiny Seed. After we read The Very Hungry Caterpillar, the children made a huge caterpillar and butterfly display. Parents volunteered to read various Eric Carle books and to work in theme-related centers throughout the WOYC. The bulletin boards that were created were absolutely beautiful!

To see the expressions on the children's faces when they received their very own Eric Carle book was priceless.

New Haven Home Recovery

153 East Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 492-4866

The Week of the Young Child event at New Haven Home Recovery's Careways Shelter for homeless women and children was a success. This year's theme on nutrition centered on the book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. The event began with healthy snacks of sliced apples, gold fish, cheese sticks and juice boxes for the families.

The mothers volunteered to read the book to the group while the rest of the group followed along; one mother read the book in English, while another read the book in Spanish. All participants were fully engaged and excited when the caterpillar turned into the butterfly at the climax of the story. The oldest girl read the book mark created by the New Haven Early Childhood Council, R... is for READ, on the importance of reading 15 minutes every day to children – she was really proud to use big words such as 'literacy' and 'alphabetically' as she read aloud.



Next, the families decorated a Very Hungry Caterpillar mobile or a smiley caterpillar coloring worksheet.

At the end of the event raffle, two Very Hungry Caterpillar board games were given away, a game that boosts literacy skills, fine motor skill development and quality family time interaction. The state funded Help Me Grow Program donated three boxes of gently used children's books for the event. All children left with a stack of books and their very own, brand new copy of The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

St. Aedan's Childcare Center

351 McKinley Avenue
New Haven, CT 06515
203 520-5639

At St. Aedan, our month-long celebration began with former students and family members arriving to read to the children. Some families brought music into the classroom. One family brought a celebration of spring with an egg decorating morning. This fit beautifully with the Week of the Young Child and The Little Read.

The very hungry caterpillar came out of its egg and joined us on our trip to Southern Connecticut State University for the annual march against racism.



Finally, a celebration for Week of the Young Child culminated in a family play date where families did various activities related to The Very Hungry Caterpillar. An exciting addition was a visit by children's author, Rick Arruzza, reading his book, Sparky the Rescue Dog. The week ended with a reading of The Very Hungry Caterpillar and the distribution of the children's personal copy of the book for their home libraries.

It was a wonderful month of sharing the children's love of learning with families and friends, in the classroom and throughout the community.

St. Andrews Child Care Center

1230 Townsend Avenue
New Haven, CT 06513
203 469-9000

St. Andrews Child Care celebrated the Week of the Young Child starting with nutritious *Family Breakfasts*.

In addition to breakfast, we continued our 10-year old tradition of inviting members from our community to read, including parents, former and current staff and our numerous alumni, including Alderman Alphonse Paolillo. Our readers included children who attended St. Andrews as preschoolers and could now proudly read the book aloud to the younger children.

NewsChannel 8's Chris Velardi came and captivated the children with an animated reading of [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#).

A bi-lingual reading of [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#) by Eric Carle was presented by two of our parents.



Our families enjoyed the music and Paul Recker's storytelling and interactive performance. Every child was excited to receive their own copy of [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#) for their home library.

St. Francis/St. Rose of Lima

423 Ferry Street
New Haven, CT 06513
203 777-5352



Before reading the story, we asked the children, "What do you think will happen with the caterpillar?" so that we could make a chart with each child's answer. The children said, "He is going to eat a lot!" and "He is going to grow!" After reading the book, each child received their own copy of The Very Hungry Caterpillar book.



During the week, each child had an opportunity to tell the story with flashcards with pictures taken from the book. The children told the story not only with the pictures from the book but also using the days of the week.

The class made a chart containing each child's answer. There are also some amazingly creative drawings the children made of caterpillars. Each child also painted an egg carton to make their own caterpillar.

The children were very proud of their new bi-lingual books!



The Little School House

1440 Whalley Avenue
New Haven, CT 06515
203 389-6372



The Little Schoolhouse celebrated the 2012 Week of the Young Child with a performance and retelling of the story The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The children took turns telling the story and using props to help with their retelling. The story was also translated into Spanish and Chinese to emphasize multi-culturalism.



United Community Nursery School

323 Temple Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 782-0141

We began the week with a walk to City Hall. Children sang songs and listened to a New Haven policewoman read a story on safety. Smiling kids returned to school with their own new safety books.

Then, teachers introduced The Very Hungry Caterpillar and surprised the children with live caterpillars!

Weekly activities included observing, drawing, talking and writing about the caterpillars; making stick puppets, and acting out the story. In



addition to all this, several parents stopped in throughout each day to read stories to the class. This was very special and exciting.

We ended the week with our 50th Anniversary Family Dinner on Saturday, where each child received their own The Very Hungry Caterpillar book. They enjoyed live music, dancing, eating and reading with their families and teachers. The Mayor even stopped by. What a wonderful week!!

Westville Community Nursery School

34 Harrison Street
New Haven, CT 06515
203 387-6660

We distributed the book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, to all children. Some parents came into the classroom and read the book to small groups of children.



Also, we sent out caterpillar "homework". Each child was given a sheet of paper with the words: "The very hungry caterpillar ate _____ at my house." There was a spot for each child to write their name.

We explained to the children that they were actually the 'caterpillar' and we wanted to know what the caterpillar liked to eat at their homes and that each child needed to write the caterpillar's favorite food on the line. The families were sent an email on what they could do to support the homework, for example, ask children what they loved to eat and write their child's dictation and help the child write their name as the author.



Each child brought their homework page back and we created a classroom book!

Yale New Haven Hospital Daycare Center

110-112 Davenport Avenue

New Haven, CT 06504

203 688-5246

The Week of the Young Child and The Little Read were big events at the Yale-New Haven Hospital Day Care Center.

Many of the classrooms used the book The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle to talk about nutrition and change.



Many classrooms celebrated The Little Read with book readings, healthy snacks and hatching butterflies. Classrooms focused on literacy and language as well. One class made a contact paper collage using representations and words from the story in both English and Spanish.

Many classrooms had socials with the parents and served all the healthy fruits from The Very Hungry Caterpillar

book. One preschool class created a movie theater set up for families to view the classroom's performance of

The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The program also had a center-wide parade and we ended in the front of our building for a picture in front of a whole center project – the construction of a caterpillar right in front of our building!



YMCA School Readiness Preschool

52 Howe Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 776-9622

During Week of the Young Child, all four classrooms hosted a Family Breakfast cooked by staff members. Parents, uncles, aunts, grandparents and older siblings paused in their busy schedules and joined us on these special days. While they ate breakfast together, parent volunteers read The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle to the children in English, Spanish and in Chinese. This year's book was the perfect choice. We read this book all the time in the preschool classrooms, but this time we were able to see the book through different eyes.



Staff, children and parents had the opportunity to learn about Eric Carle's preschool experience in another country when he didn't understand the language, and the process of making the pictures for The Very Hungry Caterpillar book. It really made us reflect on how important we are in the children's lives. Everything we do and say to children affects them in different ways. Eric Carle's teacher knew that he couldn't read and write in German so she asked him to draw everything and that's what he did. This book also helped the children to learn many concepts. They learned about the days of the week, size, colors, day and night, cause and effect, sequencing, healthy (and not healthy) foods and, most important of all, building their self-esteem by letting them know that every picture that they make is just perfect.

The New Haven Early Childhood Council

203 946-7875

nh.earlychildhoodcouncil@gmail.com

The Early Childhood Council brings together community members who share a desire to improve the lives of young children and their families in New Haven. Our mission is to ensure that all children arrive at kindergarten with the skills, knowledge and support they need to succeed.

Convened by Mayor John DeStefano, Jr. and the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Reginald Mayo, the Council is implementing an ambitious community plan, one that draws on the resources of our community, to nurture a lifelong love of learning in our children. Knowing that high-quality experiences, both in formal learning settings, in the community and at home, can make all the difference in setting the stage for a life of success, the New Haven Early Childhood Council supports innovative programs and projects to provide high-quality Early Care and Education, Family Engagement opportunities and reliable Child Health services.

The Little Read is one of those initiatives -- a community-based early literacy project -- engaging our City in an effort to promote reading for our young children.

