

Cumbria County Council

Chat Play Share

Rhymes and songs

Little Arabella Miller

Little Arabella Miller

Found a furry caterpillar

First it climbed upon her mother

Then upon her baby brother

They said, "Arabella Miller!

Put away your caterpillar!"

"Ugh" said Arabella Miller

"Take away that caterpillar!"

[Little Arabella Miller: Storytime Song with Puppet - YouTube](#) sung to the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle'

Birth – 2 years



Sing the rhyme to the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle' and wiggle your finger to be the caterpillar moving. Engage your child with eye contact and use exaggerated facial expressions. Watch to see if they copy what you are doing. Make your voice light and sing the rhyme pausing at the end of each line to see if your child responds in any way.

2-3 years



When saying the rhyme emphasise the rhyming words. Use lots of intonation and expression in your voice. Talk about who else might be in the garden. Have fun making up voices for different people who say "Arabella Miller! Put away your caterpillar!" Discuss how Arabella feels about the caterpillar. What other words might she use instead of 'Ugh'?

3-4 years



Complete the 2-3 year activity first. Tap your knees in time to the beat as you say the rhyme together. Pick out the longer words and see if you can clap the syllables cat-er-pill-ar. Talk about other insects you might find in the garden. Say their name and clap the syllables. You could make a tally chart and mark off when you find something outside. Talk to someone about where you spotted each insect.

Chat Play Share...Other ideas you could try....

Share a story together about caterpillars and butterflies and chat about the pictures and story. Point out words that rhyme or make up actions to go with the story. Examples of stories:

- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- The Crunching Munching Caterpillar by Sheridan Cain
- Ten Wiggly, Wiggly Caterpillars by Debbie Tarbett
- Elmer and Butterfly by David McKee
- Caterpillar and Bean: A Science Storybook about Growing by Martin Jenkins

Electronic versions of stories can also often be found online. Some children prefer information books to stories and there are lots about the life cycle of a butterfly or child friendly information can be found on-line.

Share a non-fiction book about caterpillars or take a look at www.wildlifetrusts.org and search 'How to identify caterpillars'. Talk about the colours, patterns, and appearance of the caterpillars. Introduce language such as furry, hairy, bristles and scales. Discuss why caterpillars might have evolved this way and if appropriate, introduce the notion of predators. What other animals use colours, smell, or skin to warn other animals away?

Have a go at making a pooter (instructions can be found at <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/home-is-good/make-a-super-pooter/>) and then go on a bug hunt. Explore the habitats of the insects you find. Talk about nettles, woodland, grassland, moss, and woodpiles. Use descriptive language e.g. We found the woodlouse under a stone in a dark, damp corner. Continue to reinforce prepositions, **under** the leaf, **beside** the gate, **on top** of the lettuce. Keep an eye out for butterflies. Which colours can you see, and which flowers do the butterflies like best? Take a photo on your phone and look them up when you get home.

