

A Very Hungry Scavenger Hunt

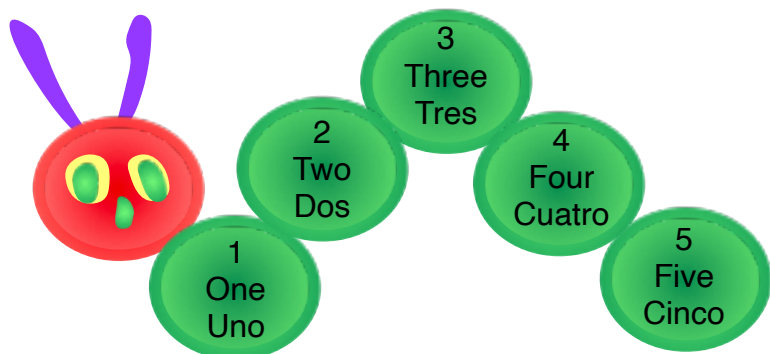
Goal: To practice counting, estimate size, and reason mathematically.

You will need:

- 6 paper plates
- A marker
- Objects to collect - might be small toys, stones, leaves, kitchen utensils, or other kid-safe items

What to do (Preschool and up):

- With your child, decorate one plate as the caterpillar's face with eyes, nose, mouth, and antenna.
- Number the remaining five plates with 1 to 5; each plate gets one number.
- Write the English number words on each plate under the corresponding numbers, one, two three, four, five. Then add the Spanish number words under the corresponding numbers - uno (1), dos (2), tres (3), cuatro (4), and cinco (5).
- Beginning with the number one, encourage your child to look for and bring back an object that is about the same size as the number 1 plate and will fill it without going past the edge of the plate.
- Next, find two objects that together are about the same size as the number 2 plate. They should fit on the plate together without going past the edge of the plate. Do the same for plates 3, 4, and 5.
- Consider what other objects you could use to cover each of the five plates. Are there other ways of organizing the objects that will allow you to cover each plate completely.



What to do (Toddlers):

- With your child, decorate one plate as the caterpillar's face with eyes, nose, mouth, and antenna.
- Number the remaining five plates with 1 to 5; each plate gets one number.
- Beginning with the number one, look for and bring back one object and place it on the plate. Then search for two similar objects for the number two plate. Do the same for plates 3, 4, and 5
- When placing the number of objects on the plate, focus on the quantity of the objects rather than their size. It is okay if the objects do not fit perfectly on the plate.
- After finding the quantity of objects for each plate, talk about the objects in relationship to each other. For example, notice the size, color, and use of the objects. Notice which plates have more and which plates have less.
- Talk about the number of objects the caterpillar would have eaten if it ate one more object. Add an object to the plate and count to find out. Then talk about the number of objects the caterpillar would have eaten if it had eaten one less. Remove an object from one of the plates and count to find the number.
- What is the biggest thing the caterpillar ate? What is the smallest thing?

What to do (Infants):

- Collect three baby safe objects to explore.
 - Two of the objects should be the same. Select objects with bright colors and interesting textures. Objects might include plastic serving spoons, tennis balls, a stuffed animal, a rattle, or plastic cups.
- Give your baby the first object to hold and talk about it. For example, if you have a tennis ball, say something like, "This is a tennis ball. It's round. There is only one tennis ball. It feels fuzzy. The tennis ball is bright yellow. It will roll. Let's try rolling it together. One rolling tennis ball. One!"
- After your baby is done exploring the first object, give them the next two objects. Talk about the two objects. For example, if you have plastic serving spoons say something like, "There are two spoons. One spoon, two spoons. One for each of your hands. One hand, two hands. The spoons are smooth. Feel how smooth. Let's see if the spoon is as long as your arm. Let's try to pick up something with the spoon together."



