

Using a Story to facilitate speech and language:

This week's story: The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle

What the story is about: The story is about a spider that is very busy spinning her spider web. While she is spinning her web, she is greeted by many farm animals that try to get her to stop what she is doing and participate in an activity that the farm animal enjoys. The spider, however, does not let these animals distract her from the important task of building her web.

If you HAVE the book, that's great! Otherwise, you can access someone reading the book as the pages are turned if you simply google the title of the book. You can also access an animated version of the book on YouTube at [The Very Busy Spider Read Aloud](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ug8vXUg8vXU). If you prefer an audio version of the story, just search the book using the following the link <https://stories.audible.com/>.

If you have the book,

- Point to the words as you read the title (the NAME of the book) and then ask your child what they think the story may be about. You can **talk to them about what spiders are** (ie: insect, number of legs, what they eat and how they get their food, etc).
- Go through each page without reading the words on the pages and ask your child **WHAT IS IT** and **WHAT DOES THE ANIMAL SAY** to encourage them to name each farm animal and describe the sound each animal makes.
- On one of the first pages, you can see the spider fly to a fence post and start building her web. Ask your child **WHY** she may be building that web and **WHAT** spiders like to eat.
- As you read through the book, you will find that some of the words and **sentences are repetitive**. Repetitive books are great for children learning to talk and expand their sentences. As you turn each page, you can ask WHO came next in the story and WHAT did they say? This will encourage your child to label pictures and answer "WH" questions. Read the pages that talk about what animal came next and what they asked the spider. You can then ask your child, "did the spider answer?" and then you and your child can say TOGETHER..... "NO...she was VERY busy spinning her web."
- At the end of the story, you will see that the spider finished building her web. It is now nighttime, and she is sleeping. Ask your child **WHEN** was the web finished and **WHY** didn't she answer the owl this time (because she fell asleep!).
- After you have read the entire story, it is fun to go through each page again and see if your child can **find the fly** that is flying around each page. Ask your child **WHERE** is the fly now? Model the directional words (ie: in front/behind, in, on, under, next to) to talk about where the fly is on each page. Ask your child what happened to the fly in the end and what the spider may do with the fly!
- After you have finished with all these tasks, **talk a little bit about how you and your child liked the story and what they liked the best.**






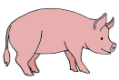


- If you're watching a video of the story, you can stop it at certain intervals (1-2 pages) and talk about the illustrations (same as above). Remember, for very young children or for children who are not yet talking or using many words, just having them POINT to a picture that YOU name is a great activity!

AFTER READING, WATCHING, OR LISTENING:

Try to have your child **remember all the ANIMALS** (characters) in the book and the sounds that each animal made. This task can teach your child about **story recall**, as well as about **naming common nouns** (animals) and **actions** associated with those nouns (ie: sounds they make and what action they like to do). Talk about vocabulary words that your child may not know (ie: "bleating" -the sound made by a sheep). These are all great skills to help build and develop your child's thinking and vocabulary skills.

- Related to THIS story: think of other animals you may see on the farm that aren't in this book. Talk about how animals live in different places (ie: ocean, forest, jungle). Have your child try to name at least 5 animals that live in those different environments. You can also talk about what different animals like to do and what they like to eat.
- Feel free to use other books, iPad, or computer to find pictures of animals and the places that they live to give your child a visual representation.
- Have fun! Books are a great way to build your child's understanding of language and expressive vocabulary, while enjoying special time with you!

The Very Busy Spider

	Spider		Cow
	Horse		Sheep
	Goat		Pig
	Dog		Cat