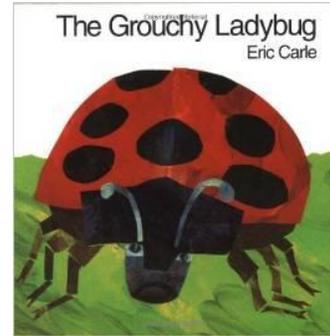


The Grouchy Ladybug

By Eric Carle

What is this ladybug so grouchy about?!

Before you read the book, ask the children if they know what grouchy means. Ask if they can think of some things that make them grouchy.



Art: Have the children create ladybugs using paper plates, tissue paper, and construction paper. Cut several paper plates in half to create the ladybug's body. Children can glue squares of red tissue paper all over the paper plate, and then glue pre-cut black dots on top for the spots. Draw on the face and antennae, or use black pipe cleaners for the antennae.

As an alternative activity, have a large sheet of mural paper available that children can paint red together. Then have children offer up different things that make them grouchy. They or an adult can create one ladybug 'spot' for each grouchy idea, writing the words underneath. [Optional] Take photos of the children making grouchy faces; cut them into circles and glue them on top of the black dot on the mural that they brainstormed.

Fine Motor: Create red play dough. Have a variety of small, black loose parts for children to use with play dough to explore.

Gross Motor: Create large black dots with pictures of the ladybug on them. Children take turns hopping from one dot to another. The child who hops on the ladybug can tell the others what makes them angry.

Music: Sing "If You're Grouchy and You Know It," using actions that describe what children can do when they're angry. Examples:

- Take a deep breath (exaggerated breath in and out)
- Ask for a hug (find a partner to hug)
- Take a break (sit down, hugging knees close)
- Count to 10 (count out loud)
- Say, "I'm mad!" (say together)

Sensory Play: Using a tub of water beads, Jello, or Sand-Alive, hide small ladybugs and have the children take turns finding them.

Language/ Social development: Children are given a picture of the characters in the book (ladybug, aphid, second ladybug, praying mantis, etc.) the child with the ladybug would go to each of the other characters and 'act out' the story. After each encounter the ladybug character would say 'you're not big enough' and move on to the next character.

Include Families! Send a letter home outlining the story of the *Very Grouchy Ladybug*. Have parents talk with children about what makes them cranky at home, and strategies to cheer them up. Parents can take a picture of the child making a grouchy face and a happy face. Putting them side by side is a neat visual to remind children of the strategies discussed.