

EY 3.1

GROWING ACTIVITY 2

A CATERPILLAR NAMED HALOON

One of the easiest things to grow with children is cress and mustard – Haloon is an Indian variety of cress, also known as Aserio. It is great as young children get a quick result.

Curriculum links

Communication and language	Listening and attention; Understanding; Speaking.
Physical development	Moving and handling; Health and self-care.
Personal, social and emotional development	Self-confidence and self awareness; Managing feelings and behaviour; Making relationships.
Literacy	Reading; Writing.
Mathematics	Numbers; Shape, space and measures.
Understanding the world	People and communities; The world; Technology.
Expressive arts and design	Exploring and using media and materials; Being imaginative.

What you need:

- Old egg box.
- Haloon seeds.
- Empty egg shells.
- Kitchen roll.
- Cotton wool.
- Something for Haloon's eyes, nose and antennae.

Introduction

You can introduce this activity by reading Eric Carle's classic book *'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'* and introduce them to the concept of life cycles.

Discuss the children's favourite things to eat.



A CATERPILLAR NAMED HALOON

1. Cut off the bottom of an egg box. Cut the bottom half in two so you have two long shapes with three compartments each. Decorate your caterpillar. You can give him spots or stripes – or both.
2. Now give him a face. You can draw a face and glue it on or paint it straight on. Use pipe cleaners or twisted paper to make a couple of antennae and fasten them on so they come out above the eyes.
3. Line the base with plastic so it doesn't get soggy, or use a hollowed out eggshell.
4. Wet some scrunched up kitchen paper and add a thin layer of cotton wool on top, leaving about 1cm below the top edge.
5. Sprinkle the seeds into each segment on top of the cotton wool and press them down lightly.
6. Discuss the colour, size and shape of the seeds.
7. Cover with a piece of paper for a couple of days and then remove and leave your caterpillar in a light warm place and check daily to see if there is any growth. Keep the cotton wool damp but be careful not to over-water. There should be some growth after five to seven days.
8. Measure the growth each day and take pictures.
9. When Haloon is fully developed you can give him a 'haircut' and eat the haloon in a salad or egg sandwich. Enjoy!
10. Alternatively, try growing a Haloon head in an egg shell or yoghurt pot and draw on the face.
11. Sing '*There's a Tiny Caterpillar*'.
12. Finish with the adapted story, '*the Fox and the Crocodile*' (page 75).

Extended activity

Make a *Very Hungry Caterpillar* display and decorate your butterfly. Play the caterpillar game and line up one behind the other and pretend to be a caterpillar. Make up a caterpillar song.