



Make a Button Caterpillar

Button felt loops together to make a caterpillar bracelet.

Helps Your Child Grow



Fine Motor

Aligning each button with a buttonhole, pushing it through, and pulling it out the other side gives your child repeated practice building finger strength and coordinating both hands.



Cognitive Self-Regulation (Executive Functioning)

Completing the caterpillar requires your child to focus on each button and build the body one section at a time, naturally extending their time on task.

Steps

- After reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, take the caterpillar idea further by making one with buttons.
- Bring out felt buttoning strips, with each strip becoming one section of the body. Cut a caterpillar head from paper, and get ready to build.
- Button one felt strip into a loop. Thread a second strip through the first and button it closed, linking the loops like a chain. Say, "Every new loop makes our caterpillar longer!"
- Let your child continue buttoning felt loops to build the whole body.
- Give your child time to work. If a button is difficult, remind them to line it up with the hole, push it through, and pull from the other side.
- When the body is complete, attach the paper head. Add round eyes and a smiling mouth to bring the caterpillar to life.

Tips

- If you do not have a buttoning toy, cut strips from an old piece of clothing with buttons and use them as body sections.
- Repeated buttoning strengthens #PMP-FiM.
- If buttoning is hard, hold the felt loop steady so your child can focus only on aligning and pushing the button through.

Observations

- Links felt button loops to make a caterpillar body
- Focuses on connecting the felt loops into a caterpillar bracelet