



## The Very Busy Spider

Lesson Guide | EA Literacy & Learning

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### Purpose

To support students in understanding persistence, attention, and responsive support, while building comprehension, oral language, and discussion skills through observation of character actions.

### Key Understanding

Not all learners need the same type or amount of support at the same time. Effective learning continues when attention and instruction are responsive to need rather than equal for everyone in every moment.

### Why This Book Matters

The Very Busy Spider matters because it provides a clear, concrete example of how learning and focus are maintained through purposeful responses rather than constant interruption. As each animal seeks attention, the spider remains engaged in her task, responding only when support aligns with her goal. This mirrors effective classroom instruction, where teachers provide targeted support without stopping learning for all students. The story helps students and teachers understand that different needs require different responses—and that this is not unfair, but effective.

### Before Reading

- What do you notice about the spider?
- What does “busy” mean?

Introduce key vocabulary:

- busy
- focus
- interrupt
- persist

Preview: This story shows what happens when someone keeps working even when others want attention.

### During Reading

Pause to discuss:

- Which animal is trying to get the spider’s attention?
- What does the animal want?
- How does the spider respond?

Ask:

- Why doesn’t the spider stop working?

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- Is the spider being rude—or focused?
- What happens because she keeps working?

### **After Reading**

Discuss:

- What did the spider accomplish by staying focused?
- Did every animal need the same response?
- How would the story change if the spider stopped each time?

### **Discussion & Language Support**

Sentence frames:

- The spider stayed busy because \_\_\_.
- Not everyone needed the same \_\_\_.
- The spider finished her work when \_\_\_.

### **Extension Activities**

- Focus Sort: Sort pictures of helpful versus interrupting actions.
- Role Play: Act out moments when staying focused is important.
- Connection Drawing: Draw a time you stayed focused even when others wanted your attention.

### **What to Look For in Students**

- Ability to explain character actions and purpose
- Use of language related to focus and persistence
- Understanding that different situations require different responses
- Willingness to discuss attention and learning behaviors

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