Materials Needed:

- Plastic or Paper Cups (Preferably recycled!)
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Printed out (or found in magazines) images of a carnivore, herbivore, producer and decomposer
  - You can use animals/plants that are common in your area, for example in New Hampshire we might use Grass (Producer) → Rabbit (Herbivore, Consumer #1) → Fox (Carnivore, Consumer #2) → Mushroom (Decomposer)

“Greetings everyone! Lulu Love here. I like learning about food chains and how all the plants and animals in our world are able to get the nutrients that they need. Sometimes it’s hard to think of carnivores—or animals that eat other animals—as good creatures—but they need food just like the rest of us! Today we’re going to make our own food chains.”

Food Chain Background Info:

Every living thing needs energy. Animals get energy from the food they eat, plants get their energy from sunlight, water and soil. Energy is needed for living things to grow and be healthy.

A food chain is a way to visualize or see what living things eat to survive and also how energy is passed from one living thing to another.

Food Chain Stacking Activity:
• Cut out pictures of animals from the area where you live. You should try to have a producer, carnivore, herbivore and decomposer.
• Glue the pictures onto cups—one picture per cup
• Label the pictures on the cups
• Try putting the cups in order
• Tell a friend the story of how the food chain works and “act it out” by stacking one cup on top of each other to show who-eats-what.
• Try a longer food chain!

What’s next?!

Spend some time looking up food chains on the Internet or in books. Look into the important jobs that producers, consumers and decomposers play in our many ecosystems!

“Did you have fun learning about food chains? How long can you make your food chain cup stack? Look into different ecosystems and their food chains. How are they different from the ecosystem where you live?”

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