

BUTTERFLIES IN THE PLAYGROUND

Science—EYFS

Lots of lovely activities to do with butterflies, inspired by 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle. They could be done over a series of sessions or individually.

Resources: For the butterfly feeder each child will need a pre hole-punched and strung paper plate (see below).

For the natural art caterpillar each child will need a long strip of card with double sided sticky tape (see below).

BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Let a small section of a grassy area or a flower bed grow wild. This will give butterflies shelter to lay their eggs and provide lots of food for caterpillars. You could also plant some butterfly friendly plants, e.g. lavender, honeysuckle, different grasses, oxeye daisy.



NATURAL ART CATERPILLARS

Taking inspiration from Eric Carle's, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' make a natural art caterpillar. This could be done on a concrete floor, be stuck down on paper or you could give children a long strip of card with double sided sticky tape on it.

The green leaves that children collect for the body could be put in order from biggest to smallest or from dark green to light green. Count the leaves to see who has the longest caterpillar.



SYMMETRY BUTTERFLY WINGS

Make a simple pattern of a butterfly using natural materials found in the playground, e.g. green leaves. Can children find leaves to match the pattern of the butterfly and put them down on the other side. This could be done on a concrete playground or paper.

Tip: if you did this in autumn you would have brighter coloured leaves to use for the butterfly.



MAKE A BUTTERFLY FEEDER

Make a butterfly feeder to hang in the school grounds or to take home. Put it in a garden near some butterfly friendly plants or on a balcony on a sunny day.

You will need to decorate a paper plate or a piece of card in the shape of a flower. Make it bright and colourful and put four holes (using a hole punch) in the card equally spaced around the edge. Put string through each hole and tie it together so that it looks like an upside down parachute.

The children will need to put some mushy fruit, e.g. banana or cotton wool soaked in a sugary water solution in the middle of the card and wait for butterflies to arrive.

Tip: You can attach the cut off end of a plastic bottle to the middle of the paper plate flower to hold the fruit or sugar water. This will stop the card from going soggy!

Record how many butterflies visit each butterfly feeders. Which colours or food do they prefer?

Tip: Butterflies love overripe banana, apple, peach or strawberries. They cannot see the colour red very well. Experiment using different colours and patterns.

