

Outdoor Learning Opportunities:

Butterfly Metamorphosis

Standards: S.LS.PS.4 CA.MD.PS.2 PHD.GM.PS.4



Materials:

- Book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- Green material to be used as a cover when becoming a chrysalis
- Container for keeping a caterpillar as it becomes a butterfly

Vocabulary:

- Egg
- Caterpillar (larva)
- Chrysalis (pupa)
- Butterfly (adult)
- Metamorphosis

Read the Very Hungry Caterpillar and have the children act out the story and the different stages of becoming a butterfly. Discuss the fact that Eric Carle uses the word Cocoon rather than Chrysalis. Moths come out of a cocoon, butterflies from a chrysalis. These are the pupa stages of a butterfly.

Sing the following song:

Butterfly Cycle

(to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")
Hatch, hatch little egg,
I'm so very small.
Teeny tiny caterpillar,
You can't see me at all.

Crawl, caterpillar, crawl,
Munching on a leaf.
Crawling, munching, crawling, munching,
Eat and eat and eat.

Form, form chrysalis, I'm a different shape; Hanging by a silken thread Until I can escape.

Rest, rest, chrysalis While I change inside; Now at last my time has come To be a butterfly.

Stretch, stretch, pretty wings, It's a special day; Soon they will be strong enough For me to fly away.

Fly, fly, butterfly, Fly from flower to tree; Find a place to lay my eggs So they can grow like me.

Extension: Find caterpillars outside on milkweed to bring in the classroom. Watch the caterpillars grow and form a chrysalis and eventually become a butterfly. Let the butterfly go after it emerges.

Extension 2: Play the ZAP game – like red light, green light. Everyone lines up next to each other. Person at the front says a stage of development of the butterfly – egg (crouch down), caterpillar (crawl towards the person), chrysalis (pretend to sleep), butterfly (run to the person).

Guiding Questions:

- How do butterflies grow?
- What does a chrysalis look like?
- How does a caterpillar move?