



Playgroup SA

Playgroup Weekly Session Planner

Insects - Butterflies

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CRAFT ACTIVITY

There are over 24 000 species of Butterflies in the world. A Butterfly's lifecycle is made up of 4 parts – the egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (Chrysalis), and adult. Butterflies eat nectar, pollen and honey. They have a lifecycle of 40 days.

Craft activity: Fingerprint Butterfly

Children will need: Paint, template of butterfly wings, pop stick, pipe cleaner, scissors, glue or sticky tape. String or ribbon if you would like to hang or fly your beautiful Butterfly. Coloured textas to colour in the popstick.

Instructions: Cut out the wings, using your fingertips dip in the paint and decorate the Butterfly wings. Once the paint has dried, glue a pop stick in the middle of the wings, draw on eyes, and cut small pieces of pipe cleaner and glue or stick to the top of the butterfly for its antennae.

Extension ideas:

If there are Babies at Playgroup, help them to dab paint on to the wings, then fold in half so the paint spreads onto the other side and makes a pattern. Then add the pop stick, antennae etc.

Fact: Butterfly wings are actually clear. The colours and patterns we see are made by the reflection of tiny scales covering them.



Learning Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners.



OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

Make your own Playgroup Butterfly Garden. Plant some bright coloured flowers/plants such as natural wildflowers – your local Garden Centre will be able to help you with the plants. Butterflies particularly love blue, yellow, and red flowers. You will need to have a water source for the butterflies amongst the plants and some rocks that they can sun themselves on. Over the coming weeks you can check on the garden and watch the butterflies as they make your garden their new home.

SENSORY ACTIVITY

Butterfly Lifecycle Chart

You will need: Strong cardboard, green card, cut out picture of a butterfly and caterpillar, a small stick, black texta, glue, bluetack.

Instructions: Prepare before Playgroup – cut a large circle from the cardboard, write the four lifecycle stages of a butterfly onto the card. Cut out the butterfly and caterpillars. Draw two and cut out two leaf shapes, glue one to the stick and on the other one glue a small white circle on it to represent an egg. Or print off some pictures from the internet, use them instead. Place blue tack on the back of each cut out, and let the children place them where they think they should go on the lifecycle chart. **COVID Safety:** Remember to wipe over tongs after each child has used them. Same applies to craft materials or items.

GROUP TIME IDEAS

Talk about Butterflies – if you have made the Butterfly Garden, talk to the children about the butterflies you might attract to the garden and what colours they think the butterflies will be. Show all the children the Butterfly Lifecycle Chart and talk about the 4 stages of a Butterfly's life.



BOOK SUGGESTIONS

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle and Bella's Butterfly Ball by Anna Nilsen & Joanne Partis

