



Butterfly & Caterpillar Resource



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Welcome to our creative Butterfly and Caterpillar family resource. This resource is full of creative learning opportunities for the whole family.

The ability to think creatively is a vital skill needed throughout our lives. Skills, such as the ability to problem solve, think critically about our actions and work, and to recall learning and apply it in new ways, are all key skills to be fostered in our children. They are all addressed here!

At the moment, as parents, we are all pushed to our limits, with our children's wellbeing at the forefront of our concerns. Creative activities, de-stress and induce calm, increase concentration and create a sense of wellbeing.

There is no wrong answer and everyone can do it!





“For all children, at all ability levels, the arts play a central role in cognitive, motor, language, and social-emotional development. The arts motivate and engage children in learning, stimulate memory and facilitate understanding, enhance symbolic communication, promote relationships and provide an avenue for building competence”

(Arts Education Partnership 1998 P.V)

The activities included here cover many of the different areas of learning from the Primary School Curriculum for Foundation and Key Stage 1& 2 such as:

The Arts

The World Around Us

Language and Literacy

Mathematics and Numeracy

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

Physical Education & Movement

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

Using ICT

Communication



Butterfly Symmetry Paintings:

Curriculum areas: The Arts & The World Around Us

Materials/Equipment

- Plain piece of paper/card (Don't have paper? Use newspaper/tin foil instead)
- Paint (Don't have paint? Use food instead - jam/peanut butter/nutella/ketchup)
- Scissors
- Crayons/chalks/pastels

Method

1. Fold your page in half
2. Draw the outline of one half of your butterfly on one side
3. Blob on your paint
4. Fold over the paper and press down
5. Repeat as many times as you like making lots of different shaped butterflies
6. Leave to dry
7. Use crayons/ chalks/pastels to draw details onto your painting (you can also add collage)
8. Cut out the butterfly shape and display



Enhance the learning:

Mathematics and Numeracy - Symmetry & measurement. Talk about what symmetry is. Use a ruler to measure both sides of your work. Are they symmetrical? What other things are symmetrical? Can you measure these also? Write down your findings.

Language and Literacy/Communication - Talk about your artworks. Close your eyes and ask your child to describe their artwork to you. They must use lots of details, the colours and the shapes to allow you to picture it. This encourages the use of appropriate vocabulary (wings, antennae, symmetrical, pattern etc) as well as descriptive language. Can they spell any new words they have learnt (older children)?

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding – Taking it in turns to speak, respecting and celebrating each-others efforts, sharing equipment and materials.

Physical Education & Movement – Development of fine motor skills through cutting, drawing, painting, sticking, measuring.



Let's learn about Irish butterflies

Curriculum areas: The World Around Us, Using ICT, Language and Literacy,
The Arts

Materials/Equipment

- Access to internet via laptop/phone/tablet/ipad.
- Notebook/sheets of paper/card (Don't have paper? Use greaseproof paper/ left over cardboard from cereal box, chalk board
- Crayons/pencils/markers

Method

1. Look up some information on Irish butterflies online.
<https://butterflyconservation.ie/> or
<http://www.irishbutterflies.com/> are a couple of suggested websites
2. Look up the butterflies that are native to Ireland.
3. Choose one to use for a case study.
4. Learn its name in English and Irish.
5. Learn what plant it lays its eggs on.
6. What colour are its eggs? Do they change over time?
7. What does its caterpillar look like? Does it change over time?
8. What does its chrysalis look like?
9. Have you got butterfly friendly plants in your garden/yard?
10. Take a short walk around your local area can you spot plants that are good for butterflies?
11. On your page draw out a picture of your chosen butterfly and surround it with all the new facts you have learned. Make your case study as fun and colourful as you can. Maybe write your facts on different coloured card and stick down around your butterfly, add collage, draw its caterpillar, plants it likes etc.



Enhance the learning:

Language and Literacy/ Communication/ Personal Development and Mutual Understanding/Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities -

Ask your child to prepare and deliver a short presentation on their chosen butterfly and all they have learned. The skills developed in this activity include: clearly communicating factual information to others; the skills needed for public speaking, such as self-confidence, clear diction, organisational skills, voice projection and listening to others as they present. Could you video record the presentations, or parts of it?

Language and Literacy is further covered in the investigation of information online. Learning new vocabulary and the correct terminology associated with the subject. What new words did your child learn? What do they mean?

Physical Education & Movement – During your walk around your area, can you create a couple of actions to make when you see a butterfly friendly plant? Or indeed a butterfly or caterpillar?



Life cycle mobile:

Curriculum areas: The World Around Us, The Arts

Materials/Equipment

- sheet of paper or card (card or cardboard works best – empty cereal packet cut up is perfect)
- clothes hanger
- string/ribbon/wool/thread
- tape
- scissors

Method

1. Draw or paint the life cycle of a butterfly from egg to butterfly.
2. Cut out the individual drawings, put some string on them and tape the string to the hanger.
3. Be as creative as you like, adding ribbons, strings or natural materials such as leaves, twigs, flowers for decoration to your mobile.



Enhance the learning:

Mathematics and Numeracy - Weight and balance. Use this activity as an opportunity to talk about heavy and light. Which drawings/materials are heavier than others? Is it easy to balance the weight on the mobile? When we add something extra to one side of the hanger what happens? Why? How do we fix it?

Physical Education & Movement/World Around Us – Can you go on a walk around your local area or garden to collect additional materials? Bring a bucket or bag and collect leaves, twigs, pine cones etc. Talk about natural materials versus man made.



Sculpture:

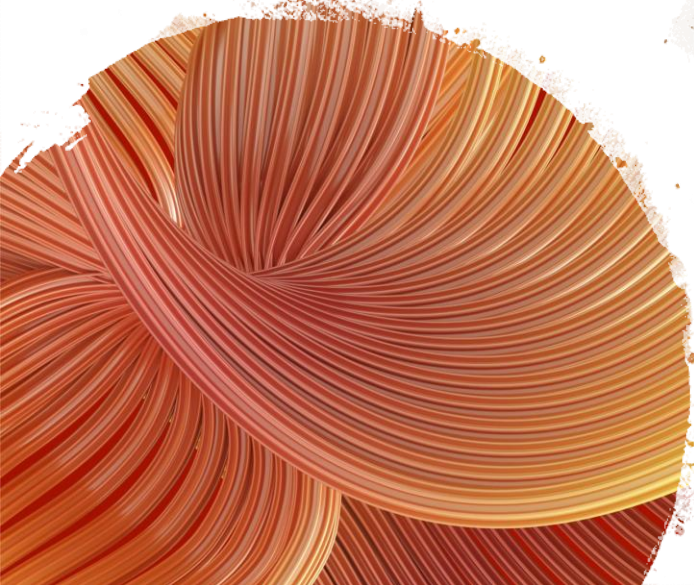
Curriculum areas: The Arts, The World Around Us, Physical Development

Materials/Equipment

- recycled materials from around the house/ building blocks/ lego
- paper & pencil
- tape, glue
- scissors
- pipe-cleaners/garden wire/string/thread
- paint/colours/bits of paper or coloured tissue for collage

Method

1. Can you make a caterpillar or butterfly out of recycled stuff from around your house?
2. Gather the available materials – toilet roll holders, empty cereal boxes, plastic bottles etc, etc. or building blocks/lego
3. Make a plan. Looking at the materials, imagine how they might transform into a butterfly or caterpillar. Do out a quick sketch on your paper. Let your imagination go wild!
4. Think about how you will stick your materials together. Will glue be enough or will tape work better? Perhaps you may need wire/thread/string/pipe cleaners. (Allow your child to problem solve the assembly themselves, with your support and encouragement of course!)
5. Get making!
6. When the structure is complete, decorate your sculptures as you like. Don't forget to photograph the results.



Enhance the learning:

Language and Literacy, The Arts – Develop your sculpture into a character. Give it a name and attributes. Ask your child to describe what their character is good at etc. Next younger children can use imaginative play to develop a story around their character by creating an adventure for it to go on. Older children can develop a piece of creative writing or comic book strip around their character.

Communication/ Personal Development and Mutual Understanding – Ask your child to read out their story/describe their character's adventure to the rest of the family. As above this promotes self-confidence, clear diction and listening skills.

Mathematics and Numeracy - 2D and 3D. Use this activity to talk about 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes. What objects can your child find around the house that are 2D or 3D. Next do a shape hunt around the house looking for 2D and 3D shapes. This activity is suitable for all ages as older children can look for more complex shapes they have learned.





OUTDOORS ACTIVITIES

Relief Sculptures:

Curriculum areas: The Arts, The World Around Us,
Physical Development

Materials/Equipment

- natural materials from outside
- water
- paint brush/stick

Method

1. Collect lots of natural materials from outside. Stones, pebbles, leaves, twigs, moss etc.
2. Create a butterfly or caterpillar picture on the ground using the materials you have collected.
3. Use water and a paint brush or stick for drawing in details.
4. Quick take a photograph before it blows away/dries up!



Enhance the learning:

Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities – using the same collection of materials can you transform them into a new picture? What else could you make? Can you draw in any bits you are missing? Repeat as many times as you can, photographing your results each time.



Chalk Pictures:

Curriculum areas: The Arts, The World Around Us

Materials/Equipment

- Chalk or use water and a brush if you don't have chalk

Method

1. Walk around your garden/yard/space outside your home looking at the surfaces you can see. What texture are the walls, the ground, fencing etc? Are they smooth or rough? What are they made of?
2. Using chalk, (or the water) decorate your garden or yard with lots of beautiful and fun butterflies and caterpillars. Can you do them making funny faces?
3. Photograph your creations before they disappear.



Life Cycle drama

Curriculum areas: The Arts, The World Around Us, Physical Development & Movement, Communication

Materials/Equipment

- A cleared space or go outside if there is good weather

Method

1. Explain to your child we are going to act out the life cycle of a butterfly using our bodies. Can they verbally explain the stages of the life cycle first?
2. First pretend to be an egg, what shape does your body need to make to look like an egg?
3. Next the egg cracks open and out crawls a very little caterpillar, can you show what this might look like?
4. The caterpillar then moves around crunching and munching until it is big and fat. Think about how a caterpillar moves and try to do this with your body, with lots of crunching and munching. (remind small children we are pretending and not to actually eat any leaves/grass outside!) All this activity is followed by a big yawn!
5. Next it finds a good place to make its chrysalis to go to sleep. It rolls into a ball and surrounds itself in a safe case or chrysalis.
6. Lastly the beautiful butterfly emerges from the chrysalis stretches wide and starts to flutter around the garden, landing on flowers and having a good fly around. Think about how butterflies move and try to copy them, their wings are very delicate and they flutter from flower to flower.



Enhance the learning:

Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities— what other creatures can we pretend to be using our bodies? A bee, a worm, a frog, a rabbit, a dog, a cat. What sounds might our chosen creature make? How do they move? Can you work together in pairs to make a creature?

The Arts – Short dramas. Can you create short dramas with your creatures?

The World Around Us - can we see or find any other creatures in our gardens or houses? A spider, a fly, a bird, a squirrel. How do they move? What sounds do they make?



****Please note these activities in this resource are designed to stimulate your children's creativity.**

THERE IS NO WRONG WAY to do these activities. Your child may not be inspired by butterflies and caterpillars but instead they may do the activities using a different theme that interests them more. That is perfectly fine. It's the activities themselves that have the learning value. It doesn't matter if they draw a butterfly or a paw patrol character, the skills development is still there! Most importantly, Have FUN being creative in Irish!

This resource was compiled for you by Creative Education Consultant Emma Berkery in association with Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich.

Further resources:

<https://butterflyconservation.ie/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/National-Garden-Butterfly-Survey.pdf>



CULTÚRLANN

M^hADAM Ó FIAICH



Comhairle Chathair
Bhéal Feirste

