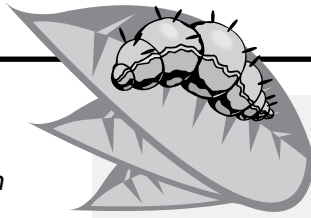


Children love to learn about caterpillars and butterflies, which can be found outside in many places. Here are some caterpillar and butterfly activities.

Read Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to the children. Talk about what happens to a little caterpillar once it is born and how it becomes a butterfly. The day you read the story serve some of the foods the very hungry caterpillar ate for the children's lunch or snack.



Read the poem below and have the children act it out.

Fuzzy, Wuzzy Caterpillar

A fuzzy, wuzzy caterpillar
On a summer day
Wiggled and wiggled and
Wiggled when he crawled on his way.

He lifted his head and looked around
To get a better view.
He looked around until he found
Some nice green leaves to chew.

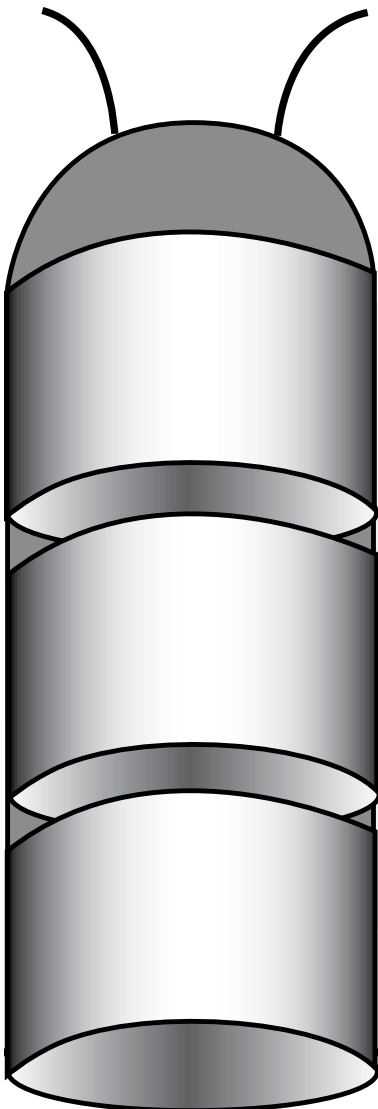
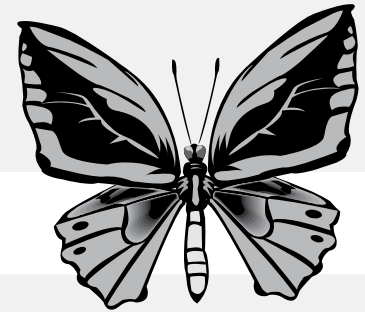
He wiggled and he wiggled
From his back to his head.
He crawled some more and looked around
Until he found a really comfy bed.

He curled up there so very tight
In a nice warm little wrap
And settled himself down
So nice and snug for a quiet, long, long nap.

He slept and he slept
And he slept for his long, long nap,
Until he suddenly woke one day.
And broke from his shell like that.

He stretched & stretched & stretched
Some more until he found a wing.
He'd turned into a butterfly. Surprise!
Such a beautiful, colorful thing.

Oh, how happily he flew and flew
Around the yard all day.
Up and down and all around
Before he went on his way.



Paper Chain Caterpillars

What you need:

- A 1-inch by 6-inch strip of construction paper
- Five 1 by 4 ½ inch strips of green and yellow construction paper
- White craft glue
- Safety scissors
- Pipe cleaners cut in 2-inch pieces

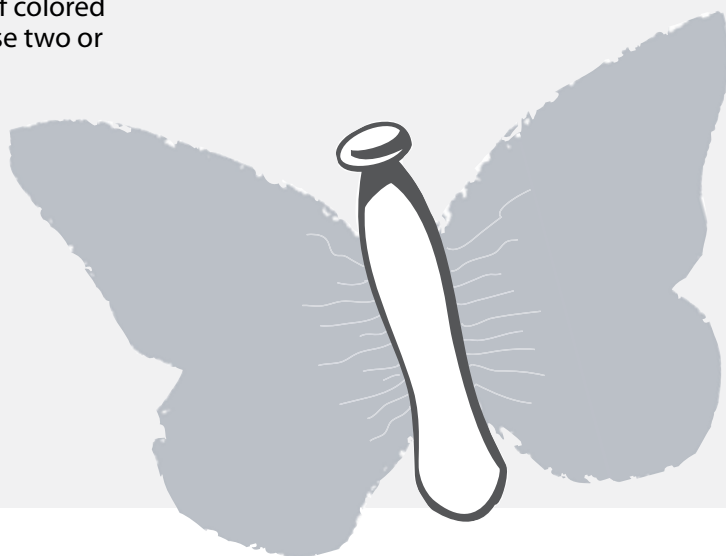
What to do:

- Form the caterpillar's head by making a loop at one end of the 6-inch paper strip and gluing it under.
- Make paper chain circles from the green and yellow strips of paper, alternating colors, and glue them to the 6-inch strip to form the caterpillar's body.
- Insert small sections of the pipe cleaner to the head to form the antenna.

Tissue Butterflies

What you need:

- 8-inch squares of colored tissue paper – use two or more colors
- Wooden clothes pin (the non-clip type) or a large paper clip – one per child
- Safety scissors
- Pipe cleaners - cut in 4- to 5-inch pieces



What to do:

- Take two different colored squares of the tissue paper, place one over the other, and round the edges.
- Scrunch the tissue in the middle, then slide it into the open end of the clothes pin or put the paper clip through it.
- Wrap a pipe cleaner around the top of the clothes pin or pipe cleaner to form the butterfly's antenna.
- The children can enjoy "flying" their butterflies.

Butterfly Prints

What you need:

- White paper
- Tempera paints
- Paint brush
- Safety scissors
- Colored construction paper
- Washable markers

What to do:

- Fold a sheet of paper in half.
- Open the paper and make spots of paint only on one side.
- Fold the dry side of the paper over the painted side and carefully press down.
- Cut the paper into a butterfly shape.
- Open and allow the paper to dry.
- Cut colored paper for a body and antennae and glue to the butterfly.
- Hang them up around the room for all to enjoy!



Caterpillar Game

What you need:

- Have the children form a single line, placing their hands around the waist or on the hips of the child in front of them.
- The child leading the line slowly walks around the room with the rear of the "caterpillar" following her.
- Then the leader begins to form a circle, making it smaller and smaller.
- It is important for the children to hang on and not let go.
- After a small circle is formed the leader needs to reverse and go out of the circle again.

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