

Objective

By the end of this lesson, J will understand the four stages of the butterfly life cycle: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly. J will also be able to explain each stage and recognize the transformation that occurs in each phase.

Materials and Prep

- A comfortable space for learning and activities.
- J's favorite drawing materials (crayons, markers, or colored pencils).
- A large piece of paper or a notebook for drawing.
- Optional: A small container to simulate a butterfly habitat (like a shoebox).

Activities

- **Story Time:**

Read a fun story about butterflies. You can make up a story about a little caterpillar named "Cathy" who dreams of becoming a butterfly. This will help J understand the journey of a butterfly in a relatable way.

- **Life Cycle Drawing:**

J will draw the four stages of the butterfly life cycle on a large piece of paper. Start with a tiny egg, then a hungry caterpillar, followed by a chrysalis, and finally, a beautiful butterfly. Encourage J to use lots of colors!

- **Butterfly Dance:**

After learning about the life cycle, J can pretend to be a caterpillar and then transform into a butterfly. Play some music and have J wiggle like a caterpillar, then spread their arms and dance like a butterfly!

- **Butterfly Habitat Creation:**

Using a shoebox or a similar container, J can create a small butterfly habitat. J can decorate it with flowers and leaves, showing where butterflies like to live. This activity will help J understand where butterflies grow and thrive.

Talking Points

- "Do you know that butterflies start as tiny eggs? They are so small!"
- "After the egg hatches, a caterpillar comes out! What do you think it likes to eat?"
- "The caterpillar eats a lot and grows big. Then it makes a cozy home called a chrysalis."
- "Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar is changing. Can you guess what it will become?"
- "Finally, it becomes a beautiful butterfly! Look at how colorful they can be!"