

Pretty Butterfly

(Tune: "Up on the Housetop")



First comes a butterfly
who lays an egg.
Out comes a caterpillar
with many legs.
Oh, see the caterpillar
spin and spin.
A little chrysalis to sleep in.
Oh, oh, oh, look and see,
Oh, oh, oh, look and see.
Out of the chrysalis, my, oh, my,
Out comes a pretty butterfly!



Original Author Unknown

Butterflies are amazing! Did you know they begin life as something completely different? As they grow, they transform – this process is known as “metamorphosis”.

Coffee Filter Butterfly Finger Puppet

1. Cut out butterfly shape.
2. Place pattern on folded coffee filter and trace with permanent marker.

FOLD →

3. Open coffee filter and design your butterfly with washable markers.
4. Place butterfly on foil and dab water gently with your finger and watch the colors spread.
5. Pat dry with paper towel.
6. Cut dry butterfly and remember to cut two slits on body for your finger.

How Does a Butterfly Grow?

Stage 1: Egg

A female butterfly lays tiny eggs on a plant.

Stage 2: Caterpillar

A caterpillar hatches from each egg and immediately starts chomping on the leaves. They will shed their skin four or five times.

Stage 3: Chrysalis

The fully-grown caterpillar creates this shell. Inside the shell, the caterpillar goes through changes that will make it look completely different.

Stage 4: Butterfly

At last, the butterfly emerges. The wings are wet, soft and wrinkled and the butterfly waits for its wings to dry. The butterfly then takes to the air in search of flowers to feed on and mate. The cycle is complete and ready to start over!

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GET BUGGY

What to do:

Read lots of books about bugs and insects, and go on an insect hunt. Tell your child that scientists who study insects are called *entomologists* and that he/she is going to be one for the day. Talk about the fact that most insects have three body parts (head, abdomen, and thorax) and that most have six legs.

Developmental Note:

Some children are afraid of bugs. Be respectful and let them observe with you or a friend. Talk with your child about the various body parts and legs, and reinforce the vocabulary you are teaching. It is the concepts that are important, not the end product.

Talk about your findings. What insects did your child discover in the books or on the hunt? Ants, grasshoppers, butterflies, bees, dragonflies, worms, crickets?

Learning benefits:

Encourages curiosity

Builds observational skills

HAVE FUN!