

Artful Stories:

A Preschool Tour Experience at the Minneapolis Institute of Art

Butterflies

Book

Waiting for Wings, written by Lois Ehlert

Materials

- Storybook
- Foam butterflies and bags of shapes
- Match game cards in small canvas bag
- Butterfly finger puppet
- Picture frame
- Laminated songs

Suggestions

Don't feel restricted by butterfly images, you can incorporate all bugs

Lesson

Content Objectives

- Explore a storybook and artwork in the galleries
- Discover symmetry, colors, and patterns on butterfly wings

Skill Objectives

What students will do

- Listen to and talk about a storybook
- Make theme connections from the book to works of art
- Manipulate materials related to the tour theme

What students will learn

- Language acquisition and critical thinking
- Visual perception, discrimination and interpretation

Vocabulary

- Butterfly
- Caterpillar
- Eggs
- Wings
- Cocoon
- Insects
- Bugs
- Symmetry
- Mirror image
- Pattern
- Color
- Shape

Activities

Introduction

Museum Rules

- Looking Eyes (making circles with hands around eyes)
- Listening Ears (have children wiggle ears)
- Quiet Hands (put hands in their lap)
- Inside Voice (put finger to mouth and make “shhhh” sound)

Picture Frame Rhyme

- Can be spoken or sung to the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot”
- Pass picture frame to each child in turn
- Have them hold up the frame to their face and say/sing the following
- Repeat for each child

*“Looking through my picture frame, who do I see?
I see [INSERT NAME] looking at me!”*

Artful Kids Rhyme

- Can be spoken or sung to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”

*It’s story time at Mia
I’m so glad you’re here today
The art is here for everyone
So, let’s get ready to have some fun
We’ll sit down and read a book
And take our time to talk and look*

Gallery

Movement

- Flutter like a butterfly through the museum
- Have the students make the movements as you say the poem below

*There’s a tiny caterpillar on a leaf, wiggle, wiggle,
There’s a tiny caterpillar on a leaf, wiggle, wiggle,
There’s a tiny caterpillar, a tiny caterpillar, a tiny caterpillar on a leaf, wiggle,
wiggle.*

*There’s a big fat caterpillar on a leaf, munch, munch,
There’s a big fat caterpillar on a leaf, munch, munch,
There’s a big fat caterpillar, a big fat caterpillar, a big fat caterpillar on a leaf,
munch, munch.*

*There’s a pretty butterfly on a leaf, flutter, flutter,
There’s a pretty butterfly on a leaf, flutter, flutter,
There’s a pretty butterfly, a pretty butterfly, a pretty butterfly on a leaf, flutter,
flutter.*

Storybook

- Use the butterfly puppet while reading to engage the students
- Point out the images of the life cycles in the illustrations as well as the colors and patterns on the butterfly wings

Looking exercises

- Teach the concept of symmetry by looking at symmetrical artwork (ex. African masks and ceramic bowls)
- Show the students what makes the artwork symmetric by having them hold their hand in front of their face to cover half of the artwork
- To help them relate, point out that their body is symmetric; you can relate this idea to the African masks

Manipulative exercise

- Play symmetry game with foam butterfly
 - Have the students make the other half/mirror image of the butterfly using foam shapes
 - There are three patterns in each kit: orange butterfly body, blue butterfly body, and green butterfly body
 - The colored dot on the Ziploc bags corresponds with the color of the butterfly body
 - There are 3 extra pieces in each bag to make the game more challenging
 - If time allows, let the students do all three patterns. Don't feel overwhelmed by all the small pieces, ask the students to help clean up
- Play Maria Sibylla Merian butterfly match game by placing the cards face down and having the students take turns turning the cards over to find two matching butterflies
 - Don't create competition by having the children hold the matching cards, instead have them place the cards back inside the bag to imitate catching butterflies
 - Might be fun in front of *Boy with Butterfly Net* and *The Butterfly Catchers* to pretend you are catching butterflies

Songs and Poems

Caterpillar

Little fuzzy caterpillar in your warm cocoon
 The cold winter's over and you'll be hatching soon.
 Then you'll spread your wings on a warm summer's day
 And wave us all goodbye as you fly, fly away.

Fuzzy Wuzzy Caterpillar

Fuzzy wuzzy caterpillar in the garden creeps
 He spins himself a blanket and soon falls fast asleep.
 Fuzzy wuzzy caterpillar wakes up by and by
 To find he has wings of beauty, changed to a butterfly.

The Fuzzy Caterpillar

To the tune of Itsy Bitsy Spider

The fuzzy caterpillar
 Curled up on a leaf,
 Spun her little chrysalis
 And then fell fast asleep.
 While she was sleeping
 She dreamed that she could fly,
 And later when she woke up
 She was a butterfly!

Butterfly Song

To the tune of Up on the Housetop (the Christmas song)

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

Have the students make the movements as you say the poem below.

There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf, wiggle, wiggle,
 There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf, wiggle, wiggle,
 There's a tiny caterpillar, a tiny caterpillar, a tiny caterpillar on a leaf, wiggle, wiggle.

There's a big fat caterpillar on a leaf, munch, munch,
 There's a big fat caterpillar on a leaf, munch, munch,
 There's a big fat caterpillar, a big fat caterpillar, a big fat caterpillar on a leaf, munch, munch.

There's a pretty butterfly on a leaf, flutter, flutter,

There's a pretty butterfly on a leaf, flutter, flutter,
There's a pretty butterfly, a pretty butterfly, a pretty butterfly on a leaf, flutter, flutter.