

Creating a Butterfly Garden



Learning Intentions:

- To learn that butterflies are important in helping plants to grow
- To learn that butterflies visit flowers to collect nectar and pollen
- To create a miniature garden that will attract butterflies

What you will need:

- Photos/videos of butterflies visiting/pollinating plants
- Large garden planter
- General purpose potting compost (4 large bags)
- Child friendly gardening tools
- Selection of butterfly-friendly plants
- 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle
- Plants to attract butterflies (suggestions)
 - Herbs: Lavender, marjoram, verbena, chives ...*
 - Annuals: Marigolds, sunflowers, snapdragons, geraniums, foxgloves, gerbera, sweet William, salvia, dahlias ...*

Introduction: Show children pictures/videos of butterflies collecting pollen and nectar from flowers. Talk about how butterflies are very important little creatures – how they collect **pollen** from flowers while they are looking for their food (**nectar**) and then carry it to other flowers which helps the plants produce fruit and seeds. Explain that it is good to care for butterflies and that they shall be making their own garden that butterflies will like to visit. Talk about how butterflies love brightly coloured flowers.

Main Activity: Place the planter in a sunny location and fill with compost. Let the children choose a selection of colourful flowers/herbs for the planter. In small groups gather around the planter and have fun planting the flowers to create a beautiful garden! Add a water dish to allow the butterflies to have a drink and one or two rocks on which they can rest and keep warm. Encourage pupil interaction and conversation. Talk about the colours of the flowers, parts of the plant etc.

Ongoing: Take turns to water the plants through the growing season. Over coming weeks observe the butterfly activity. Count how many butterflies visit ... which are their favourite plants? Can the children see them collecting the pollen and visiting different flowers? Count the number of butterflies that visit at given times, specific plants etc.

Additional Activity: Read 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. Develop work on the life cycle of a butterfly.

Curriculum Links:

EYFS (3-5 yrs)

- Communication & language – *Speaking & listening, following directions*
- Physical development – *Handling garden tools and materials*
- Personal, social & emotional development – *Playing cooperatively, taking turns*
- Literacy – *shows interest in illustrations*
- Mathematics – *Symmetrical patterns on butterflies, counting*
- Understanding the world – *Plant growth, care for living things*
- Expressive arts & design – *Constructing, use of materials, choosing colour*

KS1 Science (5-7 yrs) Study of plants – teaches scientific methods and skills

