

Lesson Plan 1: Introducing Children to the Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Location:

Montessori Classroom / Presented during Circle Time

Age Group:

3-5 years old

Time Duration:

20-25 minutes

Materials Needed:

1. Realistic props or 3D models (egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly)
2. Real butterfly life cycle images (photos or illustrations)
3. Black-and-white life cycle stage printouts (for follow-up)
4. 3-Part Cards for the butterfly life cycle
5. Large paper poster with puzzle-style life cycle chart (optional)

Objectives:

1. To help the child recognize the stages in the life cycle of a butterfly.
2. To connect visual and tactile experience with new vocabulary (egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly).
3. To encourage observation of nature and understanding of change over time.

Introduction (Hook):

Teacher enters holding a small basket with mysterious covered objects.

Say: "Today, I have something very special to show you. These tiny things change shape - like magic! Can you guess what they are?"

Show each life cycle stage one by one (starting with the egg), saying: "This is not a rock. It's a butterfly egg! Would you like to find out what happens next?"

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Lesson Presentation:

Lay out a mat and place the realistic props or images in the correct sequence.

Begin with the egg, and place the matching picture next to it.

Proceed to caterpillar, chrysalis, and then butterfly.

Use clear, simple language and repeat the names.

Say: "First, the butterfly lays an egg. Then, a little caterpillar hatches out. Next, the caterpillar makes a chrysalis. After a while... a butterfly comes out!"

Follow-Up Activity:

Provide the child with their own black-and-white printouts of the life cycle stages.

Ask them to color each stage, using reference images or real models.

Children may cut and paste the stages in order onto a separate sheet or create a circular chart.

Advanced learners can use the 3-part cards to match picture-to-word or create full vocabulary sets.

Language & Vocabulary Focus:

Egg - A small, round shape where life begins.

Caterpillar - The long, hungry creature that eats leaves.

Chrysalis - The special case the caterpillar makes to sleep inside.

Butterfly - The final stage; it flies with beautiful wings!

Life Cycle

Metamorphosis (optional for older 5-year-olds)

Conclusion & Learning Outcomes:

Summarize: "Now we know how a butterfly grows! It changes four times. Can you remember the first stage?"

Children will be able to:

- Sequence the stages of the butterfly life cycle.
- Name each stage with confidence.
- Make connections between pictures, real models, and vocabulary.