

Essential Questions: How do plants and vegetables grow? Where do butterflies come from? Why are they important to each other?

Vocabulary

Seed, plant, water, soil, fertilizer, metamorphosis, chrysalis, cocoon, pupa, pollination, bud, leaf

Circle Time -

- **Songs & Prayer:** National Anthem (You Tube) or God Bless America (Children sing that at Morning Assembly), Pledge of Allegiance, Our Father, Hail Mary.
- **Calendar Awareness:** Hang a calendar at children's eye level - Discuss Month, Day and Date, Count number of days from 1st to current day, Read Story of choice, Discussion of the day's activities.
- **Practice Social Skill:** Deciding what to do. Write down plan for the day and check off activities as they are completed.

Stories – (Choose books on Topic, math, letter, multi-cultural/social, religious, non-fiction, science, poem)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Carrot Seed</i> by Ruth Krauss • <i>A Sunflower Grows Up</i> by Melvin and Gilda Berger • <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i> by Eric Carle • <i>First Discovery Butterflies</i> by Scholastic • <i>I'm a Seed</i> by Jean Marzollo • <i>Explore my world Nat Geo kids Butterflies</i> by Marfe Ferguson Delano • <i>Bugillions a Book about Counting</i> • <i>A Caterpillar Grows Up</i> by Melvin and Gilda Berger 	<p><i>Beautiful Butterfly Hailku</i> by Ms. Natalie Loyacono <i>Hanging upside down, sleeping, growing</i> <i>Days go by I start to change</i> <i>Surprise! I'm a beautiful butterfly</i></p>
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Religion: from Discovering God's Child/Bright Beginnings- Our Father, Song: Father, I Adore You

- **Bible Concept:** Jesus is My Friend and Helper
- **Stories:**
 - Jesus Loves Children (Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16)
 - Woman at the Well (John 4:3-42)
 - Jesus love Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)
 - Jesus' Prayer (Matthew 6:5-13; Mark 1:35-37; Luke 11:1-4)
 - *Attached Activities for Bible Concept*

Social Skills: Deciding What to Do

- Steps: 1. Think about what you like to do.
2. Decide on one thing at a time.
3. Create a plan. (help children to prioritize favorite to least favorite)
4. Go Do it.

The Parts of a Plant

Use this flowering puppet to help children learn about the parts of a plant.

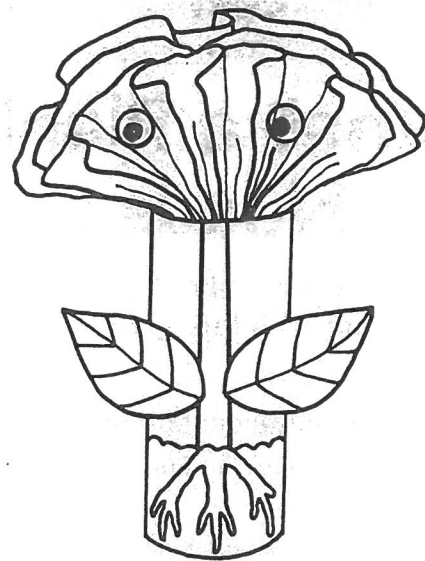
Meeting the Standards: Science

Understands the structure and function of cells and organisms:

- Knows that plants and animals have features that help them live in different environments

Materials (per child)

- stem and leaf patterns (page 190)
- crayons
- scissors
- 4½-inch length of paper towel tube
- glue stick
- two 8- by 10-inch sheets of tissue paper
- 2 wiggle eyes



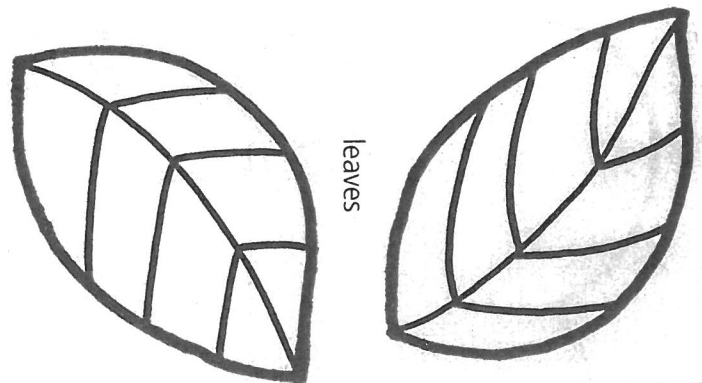
The Parts of a Plant

(to the tune of "London Bridge")

Roots and stem and leaves and flower.
Leaves and flower, leaves and flower.
Roots and stem and leaves and flower
Are parts of a plant!

Making the Puppet

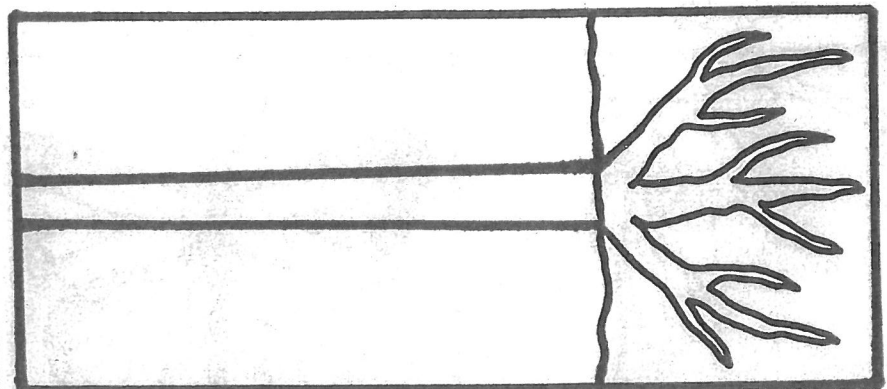
- 1 Color and cut out the stem and leaf patterns.
- 2 Glue the stem cutout to the length of the 4½-inch tube. Glue the leaves along the plant stem.
- 3 To make the flower, stack the two sheets of tissue paper and fold them in half lengthwise. Gather the folded end of the tissue paper. Then glue the gathered end inside the top of the tube. Spread the tissue paper above the tube to form a flower.
- 4 Glue wiggle eyes on the flower.



Using the Puppet

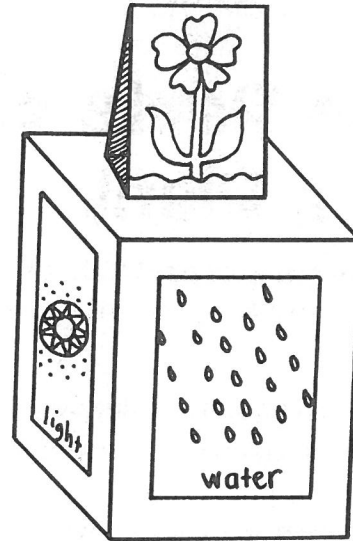
Use the puppet and song to reinforce the parts of a plant. Invite children to place the puppet on their hand. Then have them point to each plant part on the puppet as it is named in the song.

stem



What a Plant Needs

Children learn about the needs of a plant with this special cube.



Meeting the Standards: Science

Understands the structure and function of cells and organisms:

- Knows the basic needs of plants and animals (e.g., air, water, nutrients, light or food, shelter)

Materials (per child)

- facial tissue cube
- white tempera paint
- paintbrush
- plant needs cards and flower pattern (page 191)
- crayons
- scissors
- glue

Making the Prop

- 1 Paint the facial tissue cube white. Set it aside to dry.
- 2 Color and cut out the plant needs cards and flower pattern.
- 3 To make the stand-up flower, fold the flower cutout on the lines. Then glue the short folded section to the back of the flower on the opposite end of the cutout.
- 4 Place the tissue cube with the hole side down on the table. Glue a plant needs card to each side of the cube, placing them in numerical order around the cube. Glue the stand-up flower to the top of the cube.

Using the Prop

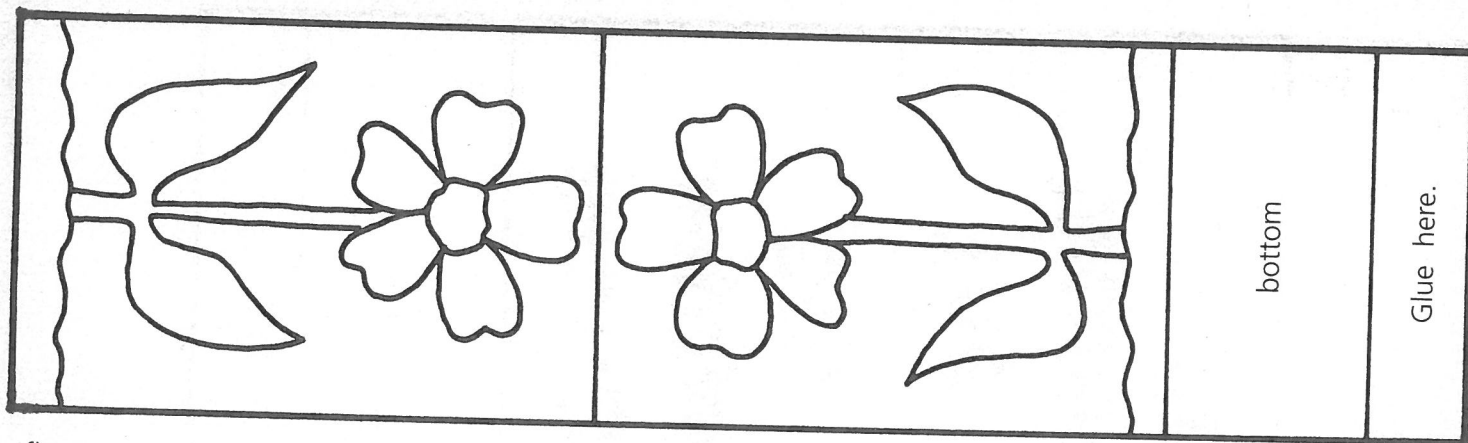
Use the prop and song to reinforce children's knowledge of what plants need to grow. To begin, ask children to slip their hand inside the bottom opening of their plant needs cube. Then, as they sing the song, invite them to rotate the cube to find the picture that corresponds to the words in the verses. On the last line of the song, have children point to the flower at the top of the cube.

What a Plant Needs

(to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

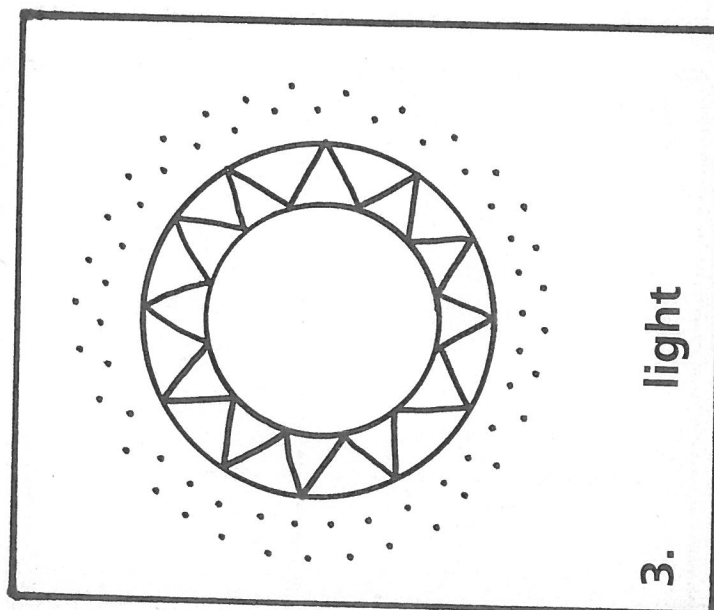
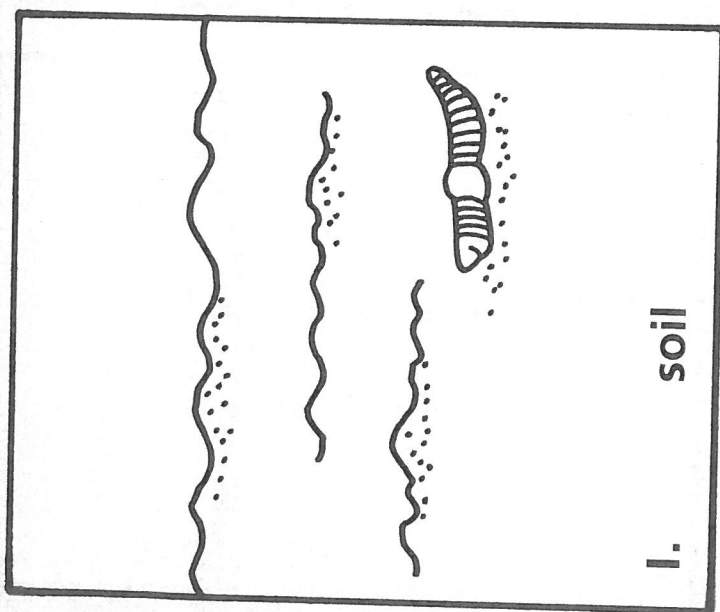
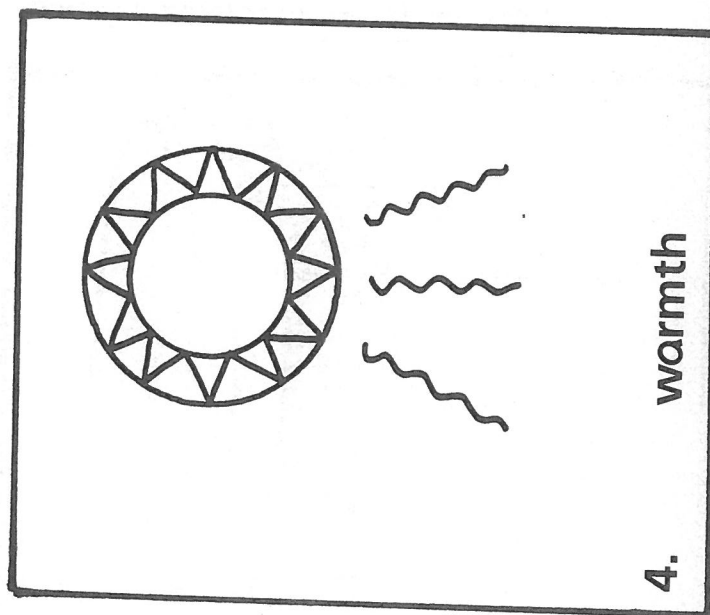
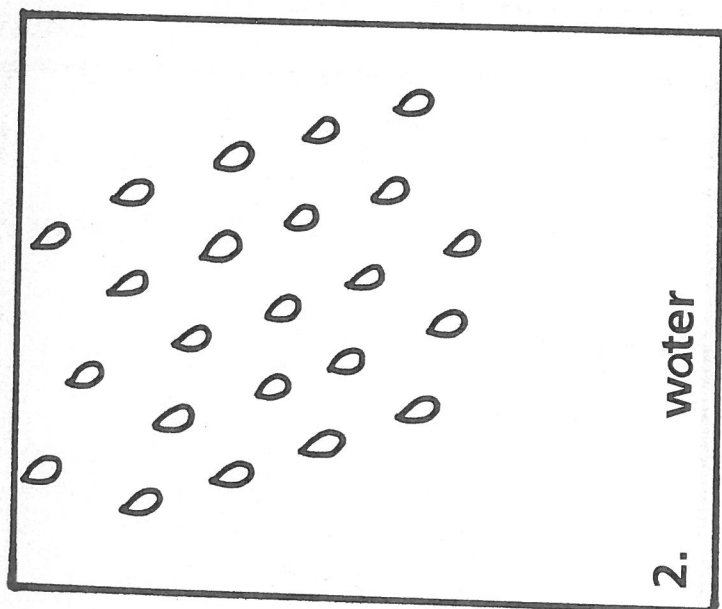
Oh, a plant needs good, rich soil
so it can grow.
Oh, a plant needs water, too,
so it can grow.
Oh, a plant needs lots of light.
And it needs some warmth, you know.
Oh, a plant needs all these things
so it can grow.

Plant Needs Cards and Flower Pattern



flower

cards



Butterfly Egg

Use this large leaf prop to highlight the stages in a butterfly's development.

Meeting the Standards: Science

Understands the structure and function of cells and organisms:

- Knows that living things go through a process of growth and change

Materials (per child)

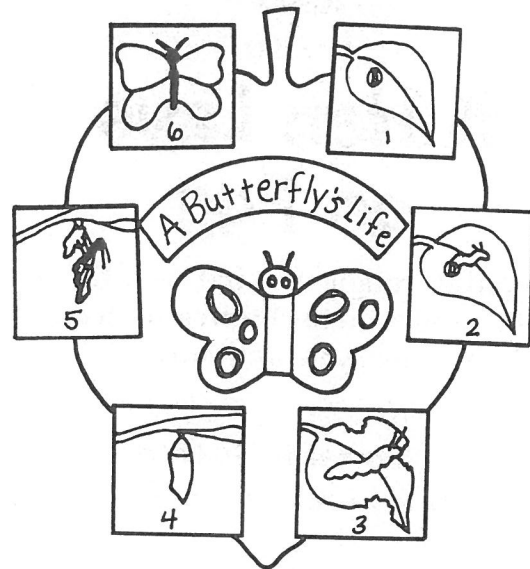
- butterfly life cycle cards, label, and butterfly patterns (page 189)
- crayons
- scissors
- 9- by 12-inch green construction paper
- glue stick
- black marker

Making the Prop

- 1 Color and cut out the life cycle cards, label, and butterfly patterns.
- 2 Cut a large leaf shape from the green construction paper.
- 3 Glue the life cycle cards around the edges of the leaf, starting with card 1 at the top and spacing the other cards evenly and in order around the leaf.
- 4 Glue the label and butterfly to the center of the leaf. Be sure to glue only the center of the butterfly in place, leaving the wings free to flap back and forth.
- 5 Use the black marker to draw eyes and antennae on the butterfly.

Using the Prop

Use the prop and poem to help children understand the stages in a butterfly's life cycle. As children recite each line of the poem, have them find and point to the corresponding picture on their leaf. On the last line, invite them to "flap" the wings of the butterfly in the center of the leaf.



Butterfly Egg

This leaf holds a butterfly egg so small.
A caterpillar hatches out and starts
to crawl.

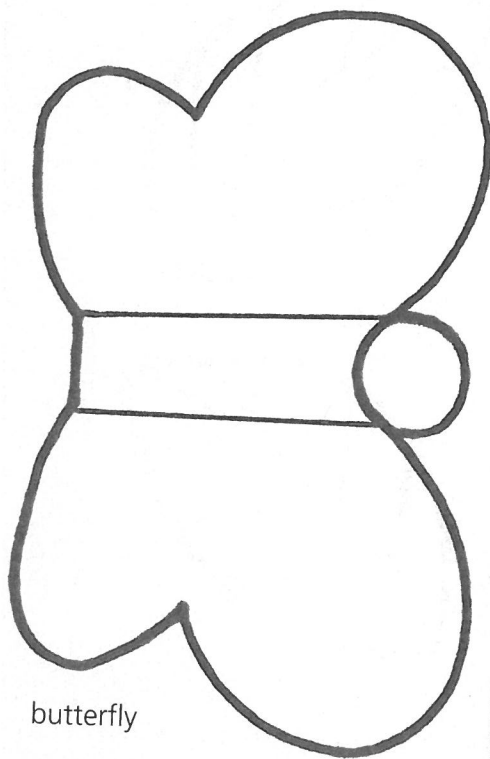
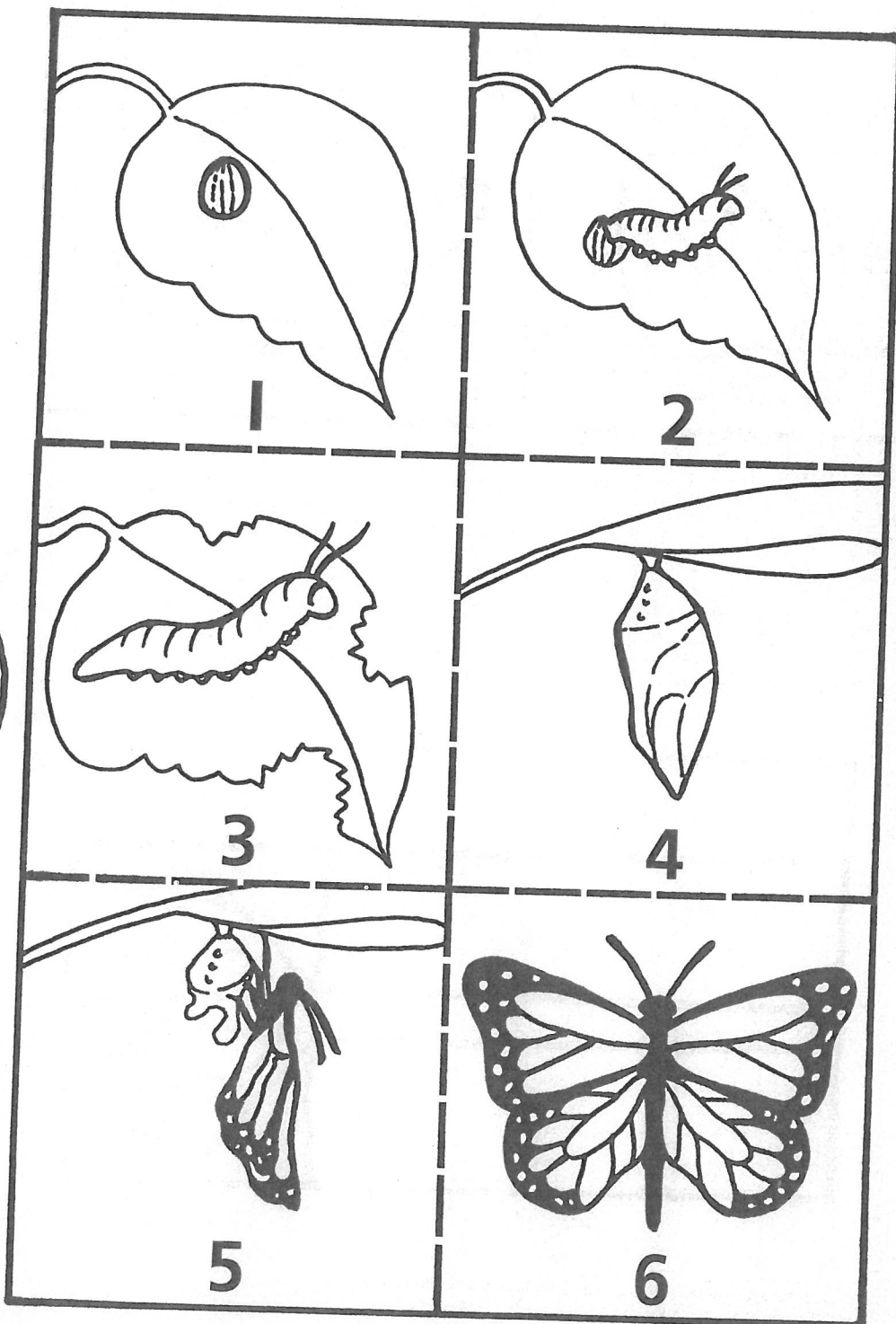
It eats and grows, and eats some more.
It makes a chrysalis. Changes are in store.

After days of waiting, there's some activity.
Out comes a butterfly to fly away free!

A Butterfly's Life

label

life cycle cards



butterfly

Activities to Get You Moving!

- **Math-Sorting/Patterning activities:** Nature patterning with outdoor items that have been sorted by size, shape, color
- **Language-:** Have children dictate a story to you about a butterfly and a plant. (Ask open ended questions to children. "Tell me about ...", "What happened next....", "What would happen if....", "How could ...", etc.)
Cut out and sequence the life cycles of seeds, and butterflies. **Attached activities**
- **Fine Motor-:** picking up items with tweezers and practice cutting: Use tweezers to pick up smallish items such as dry beans or leaves outside. Practice cutting up old magazine pictures or coupons. Cut out pictures from the grocery store flyer and use them for props in the dramatic play farmer's market.
- **Gross Motor-** Overhand throwing balls and beans bags into a bucket
- **Food and Nutrition-** Have children help prepare a garden salad with you for lunch. Discuss where the ingredients for your salad come from and point out healthy eating habits.
- **Music and Movement-:** *If I were a Butterfly* by Brian M. Howard ([available on You Tube](#))
- **Classical Music Selection-:** *Flight of the Bumblebee* by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov ([available on YouTube](#))
- **Self- Help/Health-** Pouring own water to drink from a small pitcher to a cup. Washing hands properly.
- **Outdoor activities-:** plant a vegetable garden with your children from seeds or the left-over cuttings from a vegetable; include butterfly-drawing plants and wildflowers and weeds to encourage butterflies to visit.
- **Block and Construction:** use large blocks or shoe boxes to build a barn, wooden or plastic farm animals, tractor and trucks to create a farm for growing plants
- **Dramatic Play-** Turn an area indoor into a farmer's market. Add baskets, bags, "produce" artificial or real. Add aprons, a shelf for produce display. Paper for making produce labels and prices. Money from the monopoly game, a cash register or shoe box for money. Recipe card for vegetables to use as a shopping list.
- **Science and Discovery-** What happens when you place the cut end of a carrot or lettuce in a cup of water? Ask children what their hypothesis is, write it down and hang it next to the cut vegetables. You can also use a sandwich size Ziploc bag. Wrap a dry bean in a damp paper towel and tape the bag to a sunny window. Keep the paper towel moist but not soggy. Observe and record with children what happens.
- **Table Games-** deck of cards. Remove the face cards. "War" - have children play a version of War where they must count the number of hearts, diamond, clovers, or spades on each card then compare which is larger.
- **Computer-** Virtual Field Trips to Gardens, vegetable farms and butterfly gardens are all available online and are age appropriate in length. Google pre-school virtual field trip and the description of what you would like to watch. These are just a few links.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pV-Xel1H8rk> Butterfly World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8M8siMqbVKA> Farm Foods

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQK-Sm1YY> The Very Hungry Caterpillar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1S8WzwLPIM> Life Cycle of a Butterfly

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1GrO6UbaXY> Farmer's Market

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJuXpiEjdcc> 14 Store Bought Vegetables & Herbs you can Regrow

- **Creative Expression-** Nature items art collage or bracelet. Items gathered for the Nature Math sorting and patterning activity can be used to create art collages. Add paint, glue, tape, ribbon, etc and have fun!
Create "Butterflies" with Clothespins, coffee filters and watercolor. Use eyes droppers (or other household items) to drop color on coffee filters after drying pinch coffee filter in middle and clip with clothespin.
- **Sensory-** Let's make Mud! Allow children to work in a bucket or pan. Slowly add water to dirt or sand and discuss the changes that are happening as they add more water or more sand. Ask open ended questions such as What would happen if... How could you... and Tell me about....