

Dear Family,

In my class today, we made a place for a caterpillar to change into a butterfly.

Did You Know?

- Animals go through changes as they grow. This is called a life cycle. A butterfly goes through four stages in its life cycle. It takes about 30 days for a caterpillar to turn into a butterfly. The caterpillar starts as an egg. Butterflies lay their eggs on the underside of plant leaves. When the egg hatches, a tiny caterpillar comes out. The caterpillar will eat a lot and grow very fast. When the caterpillar is finished growing, it makes a hard shell called a chrysalis. Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar completely changes into a butterfly. This is called metamorphosis.

Ask Your Child:

- How did you make a place for your caterpillar?
- Where did you put your butterfly home?
- Tell me what will happen to the caterpillars.
- Checking in later: How did the caterpillar become a butterfly?

Activities To Do With Your Child:

- With your child, take a nature walk, and look for butterfly eggs on the underside of leaves.
- Look for caterpillars, and try to guess what the butterfly will look like.

Vocabulary To Use With Your Child:

- **butterfly** – a flying insect with wings that often have bright colors.
- **caterpillar** – the larva, or middle life stage of a butterfly.
- **life cycle** – the sequence of changes that a living thing goes through as it grows and develops.
- **larva** – an insect after it hatches from an egg and before it changes into its adult form.
- **pupa** – an insect in a middle stage of its development, after it is a larva.
- **metamorphosis** – the changes in form of some living things as they grow.