

The  
Early Years Count  
**Literacy**  
Connection



## Fly, Butterfly

Written by Bonnie Bader

Preschool edition  
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### Overview of Book

*Fly, Butterfly* is a tender yet factual story about the life-cycle of the Monarch butterfly that is portrayed with photographs and a story-like text. Close up photos give us a great opportunity to see this amazing creature in all its glory as it goes through its growth stages.

Genre: Non-fiction/Informational

### Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *Fly, Butterfly* to introduce in your classroom:

flutter	milkweed
larva	chrysalis
miraculous	shimmer
nectar	harsh

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

### Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

*COR Advantage 1.5*

Creative Arts  
Item AA (*Pretend play*)

Science and Technology  
Item BB (*Observing and classifying*)  
Item DD (*Natural and physical world*)

Social Studies  
Item GG (*Geography*)

### Reading Tips

Read this astounding informational book with a tone reflecting the amazing life of this animal.

Ask questions throughout the read aloud like, "How does the caterpillar know it is time to stop eating and make the chrysalis?"

Have a map nearby to show Indiana and Mexico so the children can begin to understand how far this journey is. Ask, "How could people get there? How long would that take?"

When the text refers to seasons, remind children of seasons. Ask, "What are we doing in the (fall)?" Add, "While we are (raking leaves, going out for Halloween...) the Monarch is (flying, flying, flying to Mexico for the winter)."

### **Throughout the Routine**

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

For **transitions**, have children choose to move as a caterpillar or a butterfly.

Flutter at **Outside Time**.

Encourage children to go through the cycles of the Monarch during **Large Group Time**.

Gather (with permission if needed) milkweed plants for children to examine by hand and with magnifying glasses at **Small Group Time**.

### **Around the Room**

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

If possible, obtain a butterfly kit and do all parts with the children. Use this for observation and data collection. Encourage children to draw the various stages.

Gather and plant milkweed seeds in cups in the classroom. If you are able, transplant outside where children can watch for Monarchs to visit.

Place *Fly, Butterfly* along with Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* in your **Book Area** for children to compare.

### **Open-ended Questions**

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Fly, Butterfly*:

How does the butterfly know what a milkweed plant is?

How do the monarchs know where Mexico is?

How does the caterpillar turn into the butterfly?

If you were a butterfly, where would you fly?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact*  
***The Family Connection:***

website—  
[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

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### **@ Home**

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Fly, Butterfly* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

*Fly, Butterfly*, with its close-up photos, gives children a great opportunity to see a Monarch butterfly as it goes through its amazing growth stages. While outside with your child in the summer or early fall, watch for butterflies to make their appearance. It's fun to see the different varieties and to quietly watch them. Ask your child to describe or show you how the butterflies move. You might want to make a chart with your child that tells about each butterfly's colors, size, and when and where it was seen. Consider planting milkweed, the only plant where Monarch butterflies will lay their eggs.