

Gardening

sticks using tape or glue. The children may color the craft sticks to represent the stems of plants. Children may want to embellish their stems with textured leaves (rubblings from leaves) and maybe add a friendly ladybug.

8. Organize and plant paper flowers between the two paper plates. Create garden stories, and please touch the flowers!

More to do

Math: Make a graphing chart with the following column headings: flowers, bugs, leaves. Count the flowers, bugs and leaves in each garden pocket and mark the appropriate column with the correct number of each item. How many flowers, bugs, leaves can you count?

Storytelling: Invite children to create a story garland. Document children's stories onto cut-out flower shapes and let the children use tape, glue, string or yarn to connect the flowers together. Display the garland across the classroom window.

Related books and recording

Creepy Crawlies by Cathy Kilpatrick

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert.

Linnea's Windowsill Garden by Christina Bjork

"Rain" words and music by Miss Jackie

■ Jill Loveless, Lee's Summit, MO

4+

Butterfly Garden

Downloaded by test@gryphonhouse.com from

ProFilePlanner.com

Science skills

In this delightful outdoor activity, children use their creativity and practice social development.

Materials

Soil

Plastic cups

Sunny windowsill

Several of the following seeds: bee balm, foxglove, heliotrope, lilac, lupine, morning glory, nasturtium, pansy, Queen Anne's Lace, snapdragon, sunflower, sweet William, viburnum, yarrow

What to do

1. Discuss butterflies and describe the types of flowers that attract them. Tell the children that butterflies need a natural, chemical-free environment with a little shelter. A commercial butterfly house or a trellis with vines, such as morning glory, may be a shelter for a butterfly.
2. Decide on a place for your butterfly garden. It can be an established garden site, a window box or hanging planters. Let the children help select the place and design the garden, choosing plants in different colors, scents and heights. Include a bench or other seating if possible

Gardening

sunny windowsill and keep the soil moist. When the seedlings are about 2" (5 cm) tall, transplant them to your garden or pots and remember to water them. Now relax, and wait for the butterflies to come!

and bricks or other absorbent rocks. The rock or brick can be doused with sugar water occasionally to give the butterflies an extra treat.

3. Plant the seeds in plastic cups. Keep them on a

More to do

Art: Cut up clean plastic milk cartons into butterfly shapes and tape them to dowels. Let the children decorate the butterflies and use them as plant markers.

Math: Measure seedlings or count seeds.

Related books

Butterfly Story by Anca Hariton

Charlie the Caterpillar by Dom DeLuise

My Father's Hands by Joanne Ryder

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Robin Works Davis, Keller TX

Seed Race

4+

Downloaded by test@gryphonhouse.com from

ProFilePlanner.com

Science skills

This activity helps children with observation skills, stimulates interest in nature and allows them to practice number skills.

Materials

Assorted seeds in packets

Paper towels

Chart paper

Peanut butter jars, empty and washed

Water

Colored crayons or pencils

What to do

1. Ask the children to bring in seed packets.
2. Open and compare the many shapes and sizes of the seeds, keeping track of which seed belongs with which packet.
3. Line the jars with paper towels, and wet the towels thoroughly.
4. Push two seeds of each type between the towel and the jar so they can be seen through the glass and stay in contact with the wet paper.
5. Make a chart with a row of 14 blocks for each seed type. Label each row with the name of the seed and a picture of the plant and seed.
6. Color in a block each day until a seed sprouts. When it sprouts, stop coloring blocks in that row. Which seed sprouted first? Last? Read the chart.