

Butterfly Life Cycle

SENSORY / STEM ACTIVITY

Children love learning about butterflies, especially in the spring. Our colorful butterfly life cycle sensory bin is a fun way to extend the learning! We also use it to practice counting and sorting, which are important early math skills.

MATERIALS

- Liquid watercolors
- Bowtie pasta
- Rotini pasta
- Shell pasta
- Sorting tray
- Paper plates
- Gallon Ziploc bags



SENSORY BIN ASSEMBLY

1. Place the desired amount of pasta into a plastic bag. Add a few squirts of water colors and a little water. We decided to make this sensory bin super colorful, so each type of pasta is dyed a few different colors.



2. Give the bag a good shake!

3. Once the pasta is colored as you'd like, spread the pasta on paper plates to dry.



4. Once all of the pasta is dry, mix everything together in a sensory bin or basket!

BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE STEM ACTIVITY

Each type of pasta represents a different aspect of the butterfly life cycle. The curly rotini pasta is the "caterpillar", the shell pasta is a "cocoon", and the bowtie pasta is a "butterfly."

With this bin, children can talk about what happens after a caterpillar emerges from an egg. This is a hands-on way for them to retell the life cycle with their peers. We did that a few times, and then we moved on to some early math.

The children sorted by color first, placing all the same colors together no matter the shape.

After everything was sorted by color, we sorted by shape, with all the butterflies together and so on.

Once that was done, the children decided to sort by color and shape at the same time. For this, all of the yellow butterflies were placed together while the yellow cocoons were gathered in a different group.

After the final sorting was done, we counted how many pasta pieces were in each group. Then it was back to scooping and pouring the pasta together!

