

School-Age Children

Bucket of Butterflies – Additional Games

Answer the Questions

Goal/Target: Answer open-ended questions

Materials Needed: Bucket of Butterflies, open-ended questions

How to Play: A parent acts out activity with 1-2 butterflies and asks open ended questions about the butterflies. The children provide answers and the first to answer the question keeps a butterfly.

Hints: If the children have difficulty with the open-ended questions provide more concrete information and questions.

Adjusting to the Skill level of the Children in the Playgroup: Once the children are able to answer the questions, have them take turns asking the questions.

Open-Ended Questions:

• Tell me about the butterflies • Tell me what the butterflies are doing. • Tell me what the butterflies are thinking • Tell me about the butterflies' day. • Explain how that happened. • Explain why the butterfly did that. • Explain what will happen next. • Tell me what might happen next. • Tell me what happened before this. • Explain how the butterflies are feeling.

Combine it!

Goal/Target: Complex and compound sentences

Materials Needed: Bucket of Butterflies

Activity Description: The children tell things about the butterflies and combine the information into compound and complex sentences.

How to Play: A parent asks two children to tell something about their butterflies. For example, "The yellow butterfly visits all the flowers" and "The green butterfly flies over the rocks." Then the parent asks the children if they can put the two sentences together. Sometimes it can be a compound subject, compound predicate or two separate ideas linked together.

Monitoring and Reinforcement: Continue to demonstrate how to combine the ideas and sentences to form compound and complex sentences. Emphasize the conjunctions (joining words) that allow you to put the sentences or concepts together.

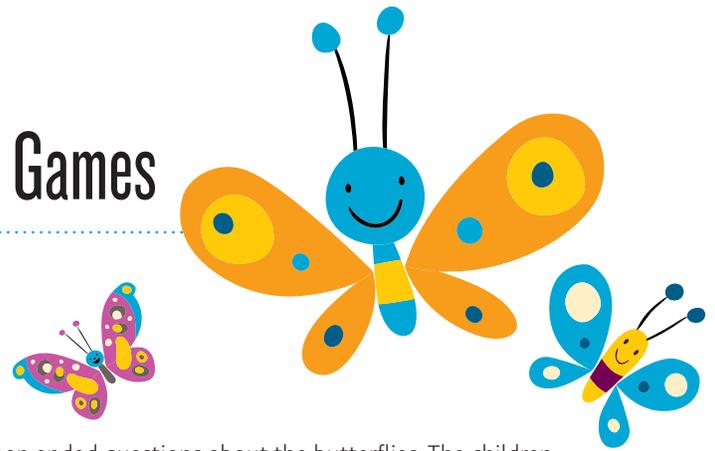
Adjusting to the Skill level of the Children in the Playgroup: Combine information from 3 or 4 sentences instead of 2 sentences into the final sentence.

Butterfly Things

Goal/Target: List items in a category

Materials Needed: Bucket of Butterflies, any game board, category cards

How to Play: Each round of play will start by placing all the butterflies in the starting block on a game board. Each turn will begin when a card is drawn, determining the category. Each child takes a turn naming as many items as they can in the given category. After correctly naming items in the category the child moves one space on the game board. If the category has not been exhausted, continue with the next player, and so on. The children try to reach the end of the trail!



Hints: Provide hints to help the children think of additional items in the category.

Adjusting to the Skill level of the Children in the Playgroup: Decrease the amount of cues you provide as the children become more independent.

Examples of Categories: Fruits, Musical Instruments, Cities, Things that are Cold, Holidays, Things that are Square, etc.

Butterflies Put it Together

Goal/Target: Combining sentences to form one sentence

Materials Needed: Bucket of Butterflies, list of sentences

How to Play: Present two of the sentences while acting out the activity in the sentence. Demonstrate for the children how they can put it all into one sentence/statement. For example, "The red butterfly is flying. The green butterfly is sleeping" can be combined into "The red butterfly is flying and the green butterfly is sleeping." Some sentences can be combined to form compound subjects and/or compound verbs.

Hints: Break down the components of the actions and the actors to facilitate formulation of the single sentence. Stress the AND as the thoughts are combined together. Also show that the thoughts can be combined using BUT, WHILE, ALTHOUGH, EVEN THOUGH, WHEN, etc.

Adjusting to the Skill level of the Children in the Playgroup: Decrease the amount of cueing that you provide as the children become better at combining the sentences.

Talk About Conditions

Goal/Target: If, so, but, before, after, then

Materials Needed: Bucket of Butterflies, slips of paper with if, so, but, before, after, then

Activity Description: The children make up sentences using the target conditional terms.

How to Play: Write the target words on slips of paper several times. Mix up the slips of paper and have the children choose one of the papers. The children then make up a sentence using the target word.

Monitoring and Reinforcement: If the children have difficulty, talk about where in the sentence you use the word (beginning or middle).

Adjusting to the Skill level of the Children in the Playgroup: You can make the task easier by providing the first part of the sentence plus the conditional word and the child finishes the sentence.



Tell Me What You Heard

Goal/Target: Answering questions about a sentence

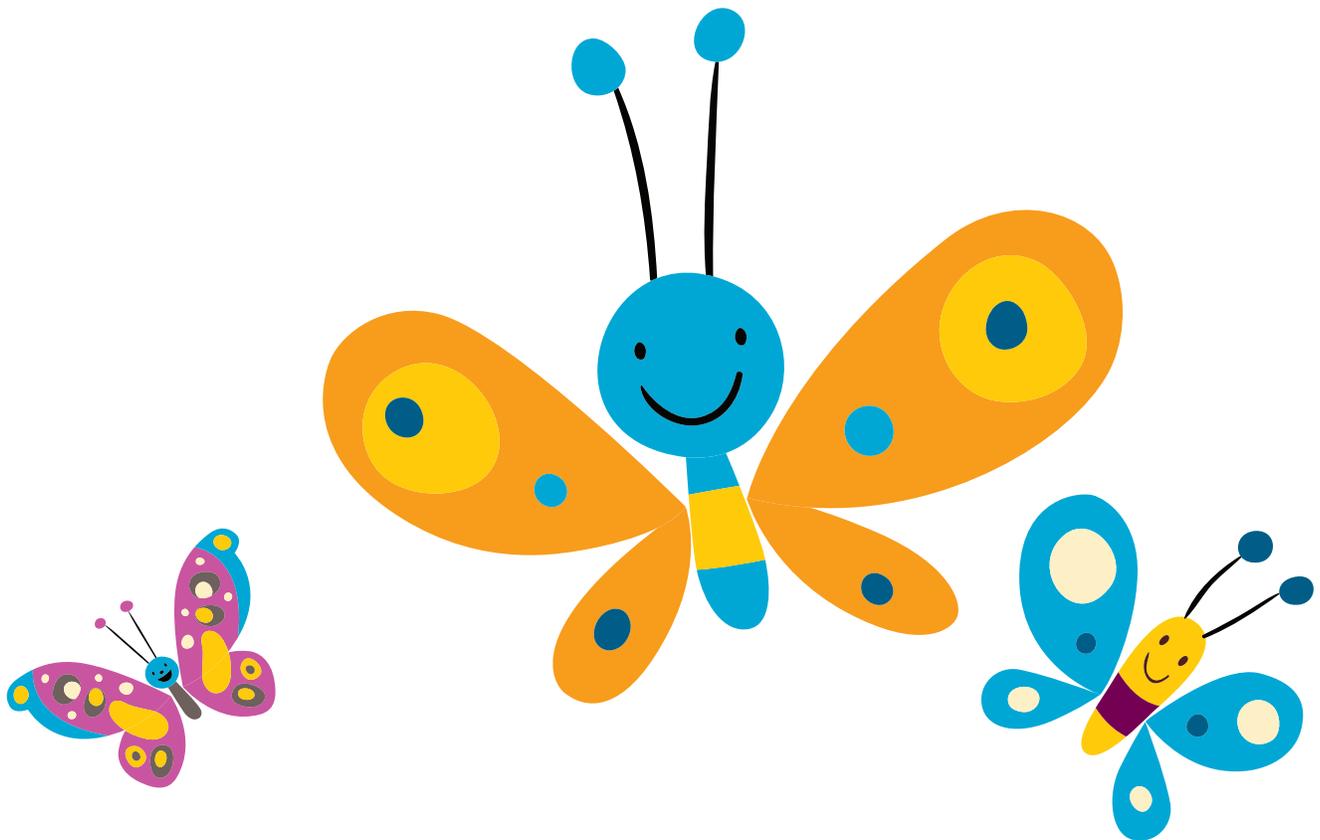
Materials Needed: Bucket of Butterflies

Activity Description: The children listen to information about one of the toys and answer questions about the sentence.

How to Play: A parent holds up a butterfly and says something about the butterfly and an action it has or will complete. A child is identified to answer questions about what the parent just said. For example, the parent says, "The big yellow and brown butterfly will sleep in the pond all day." The questions that follow can include: Is this a tiny red butterfly? Will the butterfly play in the pond all day? Will the butterfly sleep in the pond all night? Is this a big blue and purple butterfly?

Monitoring and Reinforcement: If the children respond incorrectly, repeat the sentence and ask the question again. Emphasize the part of the sentence that answers the question.

Adjusting to the Skill level of the Children in the Playgroup: Say more sentences about the butterfly and include more information in the sentences.



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