

The Butterfly Adventure * All Through the Country

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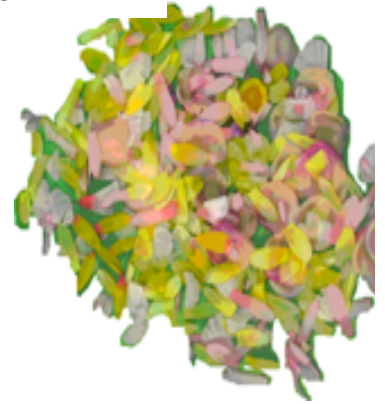
Four year old girls at MacDonald Montessori School



A butterfly was flying in a garden with flowers. Another garden had butterflies and another house had a different garden. In all the gardens, there were magical butterflies and butterflies that weren't magical. The butterflies fly around the garden looking for nectar. They run out of nectar in their home gardens, so they fly all over the country to all the gardens to find nectar. They need to sit down to drink the nectar. They sit down on their legs with bending their knees, because



There was a woodchuck in one of the gardens. This is the woodchuck. He has a long pointy nose and a sharp pointy back and pink ears. The rest is brown. The woodchuck tried to get the butterflies. The magical butterflies warn the butterflies that were not magical and they go into the big house so the woodchuck couldn't get them.



All the butterflies got tired. They didn't like the woodchuck because he likes to sneak up on them in the night. They made one big flowerbed so they could all fit in the same bed. They put flowers together. They ripped the petals off and stuck them all together. Then they could sleep with each other cause they were all scared. That's why they stay

Reflections on the Butterfly Project

We have shared with you images from an experience of children, parents and teachers at MacDonald Montessori.

During the time that St. Paul was preparing to host the Hundred Languages of Children Exhibit, four of the children were exploring butterfly stories. There seemed a connection between our journey and the stories that the children were creating. The stories evolved into visual expressions, a collaborative book and an animated video. We then made a Public Service Announcement to share the coming of the Exhibit. The children created all the elements and we, as adult collaborators, just offered support of materials, editing and production.



The butterflies follow a trail and get to where they are supposed to be. They need to sit down to drink nectar on the way. There are butterfly footprints but they make them with their wings because they don't have feet. This is the map that shows where the butterflies go. The end is where all the footprints go.

They flew all a long way. They ended up on a really grassy valley. It started to rain a few minutes after they got there and it was purple rain drops. They decided they would live there and they lived in that place they found ever after. The End

After the girls view the completed 30 second spot of the PSA, the adults thought the project was finished. But, the children asked, "Now can we make the long movie?" They were so interested and motivated, so we continued creating and filming. In making notes of our observations, we made the following reflections:

- The children have advanced storytelling skills. Collectively the team has a protagonist (butterfly), an antagonist (woodchuck) and a conflict – the essential ingredients to a story.
- Their use of fantasy appears to be unbridled.
- We've found it's helpful to create the artwork before and during the storytelling sessions. When they have their drawings in front of them, it's easier for them to tell their stories.
- The children sometimes collaborate in unison and sometimes break away as individuals, taking ownership of their own twists to the plot. It didn't seem to bother them that the many different experiences of story telling created many different versions of the story.
- In the creative process, the children's relationships and friendships with each other seems to be at the forefront. They said because they're friends, they want to be together and this project happily accommodated that.