

THE CATERPILLAR AND THE POLLIWOG

The Caterpillar and the Polliwog

by Jack Kent

Themes: Insects/Amphibians/Spring Changes

Grade Level: Pre-K

Running Time: 7 minutes, animated

Summary

THE CATERPILLAR AND THE POLLIWOG is a story about a caterpillar who feels very special because she knows that one day she will become a beautiful butterfly. The caterpillar is so proud of this that she tells all of her animal friends about her special capability.

Eventually, the caterpillar tells the polliwog that she is going to turn into something else. The polliwog responds by saying that he is going to turn into something else too. The polliwog agrees that the caterpillar should change first and watches as she spins her cocoon. As the polliwog watches, he grows too. By the time the caterpillar leaves the cocoon as a butterfly, the polliwog has turned into a frog.

The story ends with a new caterpillar explaining to the frog that it will turn into a butterfly. However, this time the frog has little interest. He's too busy admiring his own frog reflection in the pond!

Objectives

- Children will learn about the stages of development of butterflies and frogs
- Children will explore the importance of a positive self-concept
- Children will investigate pond life

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book *The Caterpillar and the Polliwog* with children. Then ask: What do caterpillars turn into? How did the caterpillar in the story feel about turning into a butterfly? How can you tell? What happened when the caterpillar talked to the polliwog about changing? What is the first thing the caterpillar did in order to change into a butterfly? What happened to the polliwog while he was waiting for the caterpillar to change? How did the polliwog feel about being a frog? How can you tell?

Take a field trip to a nearby pond. Help children examine the different kinds of pond life they see there. Ask: What other animals live in ponds? What do you think they eat? What would happen if the pond were not kept clean?

After Viewing Activities

Review with children the stages of development of the caterpillar. Then bring a plastic egg into the classroom. Have children pretend that the egg is the cocoon of an animal that no one has ever seen before. Encourage children to think about what kind of animal might be inside, what it might look like, what it might eat, etc. Then have children draw pictures of this animal and share the details of the animal's life with others in the group. Display the egg, along with children's pictures, in the classroom.

Ask children: If you could change into something, what would you want it to be? Why? What kinds of things would you do as this "something?" Who would

be your friends? Would you want to be this new "something" forever? Why? Why not?

Work with children on "All About Me" books. Staple pieces of construction paper together to make a booklet for each child. Each week, work with children individually on their books. Talk with children about the things they like about themselves, the things they like to do, family members, pets, family trips, etc. On each page, print children's dictated statements regarding the topics suggested above. Let children draw pictures in their booklets to accompany their statements. Later, let children share their "All About Me" books with one another.

Play a game of "What Do I See?" with children. Have children take turns looking in a mirror and describing what they see. As children talk, help them to understand that not only are they physically unique, but personally unique as well. If necessary, encourage children to note the many positive things about themselves as they participate in this activity.

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