**Nature Cat**

**BUTTERFLY GARDEN SEED PODS**

**Episode: “Where Have All the Butterflies Gone?” (11 min.)**

Oh no! A long-awaited play date with Daisy’s butterfly friends is at risk because there are no flowers around for the butterflies to feed on. When all seems lost, Nature Cat steps up to save the day. He and his pals decide to build a new butterfly garden before the butterflies have to fly off.

**Episode curriculum goal:** Butterflies come from caterpillars that need special “host” plants to survive.

**Clips on PBSKids.org:** “Butterfly Garden!”; “Squeek’s Butterfly Friend”
*To view clips, visit PBSKids.org/video, click on Nature Cat and select Browse.

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**Goal of Activity:**

Create a seed pod to grow a butterfly garden. These plants will attract butterflies and other pollinators to your garden. Butterflies are great pollinators.

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**What You’ll Need:**

- Clay
- Peat
- Topsoil
- Flower seeds (for example, Aster, Forget-Me-Not, Cosmos, Larkspur, Coneflower, Mallow, Snapdragon, Lemon Mint, Poppy, Black-eyed Susan, Scarlet Sage, or Nasturtium)
- (6-8) Trays or paper plates
- (4) Containers or shoe boxes
- (2 or more) 1/4 Teaspoons
- (4 or more) Tablespoons
- Paper bags and pencils to write your name

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**The Basics:**

**Number of Children:** Any number. Younger children may need help from an adult.

**Space:** A table with clear workspace.

**Time:** 15 minutes (not counting prep time or planting seeds)

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Preparation (before children arrive):

- Set up two child-height tables, in an outside area if available. Use one table as a work space and the other as an assembly line for supplies including:
  1. Shoe box- Small clay balls pre-rolled, size of a quarter
  2. Shoe box- Topsoil, Tablespoon(s)
  3. Shoe box- Peat, Tablespoon(s)
  4. Shoe box- Flower seed mix, 1/4 Teaspoon(s)
- Facilitator can guide children in gathering supplies on their tray, including paper bag, directions and pencil, and moving to the next table to mix all of the ingredients together.

Tally Ho! What to Do:

Introduction: Invite children to create a seed ball that attracts butterflies and other pollinators to their garden. To create a butterfly garden seed pod:

- Take a paper plate.
- Collect one clay ball, two scoops of dirt, one scoop of peat, paper bag, pencil and direction sheet
- Bring it to a table (designated work area).
- Knead the ingredients together. Form into a ball.
- Get some seeds and knead them into the clay ball.
- Write your name name on paper bag.
- Add slip of paper with directions on planting seed bomb.
- Return the plate to the spot where you picked it up.

Onward and Yonward! Take It Further:

Things to talk about: As children explore the activity, facilitators can engage children in conversations about butterflies. Try asking questions like:

1) Why do we want to attract butterflies to our gardens? (They are beautiful. They pollinate flowers.)
2) Can anyone tell me what a pollinator does or why pollinating is important? (It carries the pollen to produce seeds so more plants can grow.)
3) What are the steps for a butterfly to get the nectar from a flower? (A butterfly lands on a flower. Pollen gathers on its feet and is carried as the butterfly flits from flower to flower. The butterfly drinks through its proboscis, a pair of hollow tongue like tubes. These uncoil in order for the butterfly to drink.)

Partnership

The Butterfly Garden Seed Balls activity was created in partnership with Kohl Children’s Museum.
Butterfly Garden Seed Pods

DIRECTIONS FOR PLANTING BUTTERFLY SEED PODS

1. To start your butterfly garden, remove your seed pod from your bag.
2. Place your seed ball in some dirt in your garden.
3. Water the dirt.
4. Wait for your flowers to bloom.
5. Enjoy watching the butterflies visiting your garden!

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