Monarch Madness

Incorporating a butterfly garden to attract Monarch butterflies in a playspace provides opportunities for education and enrichment.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To understand the lifecycle of the Monarch.
- To determine the migratory path of the Monarch.
- To learn what the caterpillar eats and understand its growth cycle.

**Preparation**

- Show a picture of a Monarch butterfly and ask the kids if they know what kind it is.
- Talk about why butterflies are so important.
- Review the butterfly lifecycle with the youth. Also discuss what the butterfly eats.
- Discuss the migratory pattern of the Monarch.
- Discuss the winter habitat.

**Action**

- Have youth make a flip book of the lifestyle stages– egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly.
- Have the students research and then plant their own milkweed from seeds to begin their own butterfly garden.
- Have students map out the migration pattern of the Monarch (flies 50 miles a day to a town near Mexico City).
- Create a project to show deforestation– list things we use wood for, explain problems of deforestation, make posters and banners to save the forest and the Monarchs. Show video “The Incredible Journey.”

**Reflection**

Ask students what they learned about Monarch butterflies. Have them share their projects or display them in their school/community. Students can grown their own butterflies and release them into their new butterfly garden.