



Magnuson Children's Garden Family Nature Class "Birds and Butterflies"



How to Build a Puddling Pond for Butterflies!

Ingredients Needed:

- A large plant saucer, garbage can lid, a piece of pond liner, or other heavy plastic;
- 10-15 smooth, flat rocks, approx. as big as your hand.

Step-by-Step:

1. Dig a shallow, wide hole. Set aside the soil from the hole for use in step 3.
2. Put your large plant saucer or plastic liner inside the shallow hole, with the outside of the "pond" lip at the same height as the surrounding soil.
3. Use the soil you dug from the hole to fill up the saucer or plastic liner all the way to the top.
4. Put the large flat rocks around the edge of the "pond" lip.
5. Add water to the soil to make it muddy, and keep it moist all summer long.
6. Butterflies will drink minerals from the mud to give them energy, and perch on the rocks to warm their wings for a day of flying!
7. Swallows might come and gather mud for their nests too!



Magnuson
Children's
Garden —growing a love of nature and gardening

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The Chickadee Song

(Sung to the tune of Baa Baa Black Sheep)
Chick, chick, chickadee, have you any songs?
Yes sir, yes sir, all day long.
One for the morning when the day is new
And one for the evening, when the day is
through.
Chick, chick, chickadee, have you any songs?
Yes sir, yes sir, all day long



Activities to Do at Home:

1. To practice being a bird detective, use your "cross-the-street" rules!
 - a. Stop. Birds will come closer if you are not moving, and you can get a better look at them.
 - b. Look. What color, size, and shape is the bird? What is the bird doing? These will give you many clues to its identity
 - c. Listen. Many birds have a beautiful or interesting song, and if you are quiet you will be able to hear every note!
2. Put up a nest box in the early spring. Chickadees and Wrens like to nest in a hollow tree, and will be happy to build their nest in your yard if you put up a nice dry nest box. Then stop, look, and listen for the parents carrying food to the nest in April and May, and the tiny peeps of the little chicks! For easy instructions on how to build one yourself, visit the WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife website:
http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/projects/basic_songbird.html
3. Brush your cat or dog and put the fur out in your yard. Many birds use squirrel, raccoon, or other wild animal hair to line the bottom of their nests because it makes a nice soft bed for their chicks. And because birds do not have a strong sense of smell, they will be happy to use your pet's hair in their nest too- put tiny clumps of fur in the crook of a tree's branches or on a thorny stem, and then stop, look, and listen for which bird finds the treasure!