The Life Cycle Wheel

Key Concepts:
- Living things grow and develop in a predictable sequence

Skills:
- Cutting with scissors
- Sequencing
- Gluing
- Verbal articulation

Materials:
- Scissors
- Glue
- Brads fasteners (1 per student)
- Copies of the life cycle wheel and pictures
- Crayons or colored pencils (optional)
- Book: Monarch Come Play With Me by Ba Rea (optional)
- Extra adult helper (optional)

Objective
Students will use ordinal language in association with the sequence of the butterfly life cycle. English language key terms include; first, next and finally. Science vocabulary include egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly. Note: If you are using another type of insect the general science terms used for all insects are egg, larva, pupa and adult.

Background
Organisms have unique and diverse life cycles that happen in a predictable order. Insects that undergo complete metamorphosis, like the monarch butterfly, offer students an opportunity to associate sequencing with ordinal language. For comparisons to the human experience of ‘growing up’, the book, Monarch Come Play With Me by Ba Rea contains great analogies for the K-2 audience.

Procedure
1. Ask students: How do living things change as they grow up? Do all animals come from babies like humans? What does a baby butterfly look like?
2. Review the life cycle using either live organisms or realistic photos. Be sure to emphasize the language that is associated with life cycle events. First we observe the egg...Next, the caterpillar emerges from the egg...then the caterpillar turns into a chrysalis...Finally, the adult butterfly emerges.
3. Students can cut images of the life cycle and words out along the dotted lines.
4. Glue down the images onto the associated sections of the wheel and let dry.
5. Have an adult cut a slit in the cover and circle showing the life cycle. The adult can help place the center brad through both sheets so that the cover freely moves around the circle.
6. Have students describe each phase to a partner using the key vocabulary.

Additional Activities
1. Read Monarch Come Play With Me by Ba Rea. Discuss connections to animal and plant life cycles and human life cycles.
2. Life Cycle Gestures Game: Find body positions to represent each life stage of the butterfly or insect. Do these in sequence 1-2 times. Randomly draw pictures out of a hat or use a dice (the larger kind used for P.E. instruction) with pictures of the life cycle taped onto it to select movements. The students can hold their position until the next life stage is called.
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by ______________