It’s a Butterfly’s Life

Story by Allyn Fisher · Art by Amber Cooper & Tyson Smith
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This story is excerpted from the read-aloud books included in the Bridges in Mathematics Pre-K curriculum. This math-rich collection features theme-based counting and numeral recognition, sequencing, shapes and locations, and very early addition and subtraction. For more information about these books, including how to order the full printed collection of nine titles, visit store.mathlearningcenter.org bridges-2nd-edition/2bpkread.asp.

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It’s a Butterfly’s Life
A female butterfly lays her eggs on the underside of a leaf.
After many days, a tiny caterpillar eats its way out of its egg and starts munching all the leaves it can find.
It eats so much that its skin splits open! But don’t worry, because there’s a new, larger skin right underneath. A caterpillar might shed its skin like this 4 or 5 times before it’s fully grown.
The full-grown caterpillar attaches itself to a twig or the underside of a leaf and hangs upside down.

A hard case called a chrysalis forms around the caterpillar to keep it safe as it slowly changes.
After a long time, the chrysalis splits open and a new butterfly crawls out.

Its wings are wet, soft, and wrinkled, so the butterfly sits quietly, waiting for them to dry.
When the butterfly’s wings are strong enough to fly, it flutters up, up, and away to search for flowers and other butterflies.