

The Beauty Of A Butterfly

While the children of the Mountain Room create, explore, and make stories about their "Happy Places," many of them include butterflies as an attribute when they dream of that perfect happy place. Children often draw butterflies and look at the books about these insects, or run around with fabric butterfly wings outdoors. That makes us, educators, curious about this particular fascination with butterflies. Why are these insects so unique to them? As an adult, I reflect on this matter, and I have to admit that my reaction to butterflies is the same as children's. Butterflies are the inspiration for art, poems, songs, sculpture, folk legends, and myths. We love butterflies, but why? When I asked children this question, they responded, "Because they are beautiful!"

One day children began studying the images from a book on butterflies with magnifying glasses. I asked them what they had observed.

Ivory: "I see them fly low and high and fast and flap their wings. They have polka-dots on the wings, and they look like gems. It's beautiful."

Jason: "They all look different! Different colors and different shapes."

Ruphel: "I see long and short lines. I like the antennas."

Andrew: "It's more like design and colors are different. He gets this design because he likes it this way, and people say," Look at this butterfly!" and see the patterns."

Isabelle H.: "I notice different dots and circles, and then this is the pattern on wings. Lines and dots, lines and dots."

Liana: "It has patterns, with colors and lines. They are the same on both wings."

Children noticed the beauty and harmony in designs of butterfly wings. They observe the symmetry, the bright colors, and lines, and later drew their representation of butterflies. Can you see the beauty captured in these drawings?



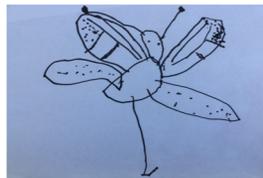
Isabelle Hernandez,
4Yr.



Aaliyah Estrada,
4Yr.



Katalina Rubio,
3Yr.



Liana Lara, 4Yr.



Daniel Salgado,
3Yr.



Andrew Salazar,
4Yr.

