

This book traces a group of butterflies from their eggs, hatching into caterpillars, then turning into butterflies, and finally their journey to the flower garden. It offers children sophisticated language that is supported with beautiful visuals.

**Useful Words:** clinging, unfold, dip

### CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

### INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

#### COMMUNICATE



#### Children will:

- ◆ Actively build vocabulary

#### Teachers will:

- ◆ Provide child-friendly definitions

### TEACHING TIP

The more information a child has about a word, the more likely that word is going to ‘stick,’ or be known well and used by the child in appropriate ways. When words can be imagined, or pictured, this helps word learning. Gestures that pair with the word are another great way to reinforce word-learning because it provides children with multisensory cues to the word’s meanings and may even help them remember how and when they first heard the word.

### 1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “We’re going to read *Waiting for Wings* and talk about what some of the words mean.”

### 2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause 3 times to define a selected word.
- ◆ Elaborate on the word selected.

### Provide Child-Friendly Definitions

**Read:** “...clinging to leaves with butter fly glue.”

**Define:** “Clinging is like holding on.”

**Elaborate:** “When you cling, you hold on really tightly and don’t let go so you won’t fall. The eggs (*point*) are clinging to the leaves. They’re really stuck to the leaves so they won’t come off. Show me clinging with your hands. You close them and hold on really tightly.” (*Model*)

**Read:** “...wings unfold; new butterflies are born!”

**Define:** “Unfold means open up.”

**Elaborate:** “Some things just open up easily, like a door. But when something unfolds, it’s like it has been all twisted together and opens slowly, one part at a time. When butterflies first come out, their wings are pressed up close to their bodies and they open and unfold slowly. Try it. Cross your legs and arms and bend down. Now unfold, one part at a time.” (*Model, if possible*)

**Read:** “They dip and sip.”

**Define:** “Dip means move down a little.”

**Elaborate:** “When something that flies dips, it means that it drops or goes down some but not all the way. When the butterflies dip, they go down to get to the flower. Pretend your hand is a butterfly flying. You can make it go down a little – dip – (*model*) but not all the way (*model*).”

### 3. REVIEW

- ◆ “We talked about different words. Clinging means hold on tightly. Unfold means to open up slowly, one part at a time. And dip means to move down or go down just a little.”

### 4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Challenge yourself to use targeted vocabulary from stories during other parts of the day. For example, at snack time narrate children’s actions by saying, “I see you unfolding your napkin. You opened it up and placed it in front of you. You’re ready for crackers!”