

While we are tucked up in bed, gardens and green spaces are alive with night time creatures...



Try sharing simple stories with your child about what might happen at night.

Use these story-starters to invent new stories with your child.



"Show me!" says moth.

Next time you are out on a walk, ask your child to point at things they can see. Take photographs on your phone of what they point out, even if it is a weed or some litter!

When you are back home, have a look through the photos together and see how your child reacts.

Explain to your child that moths don't know much about the daytime world because they are usually fast asleep.

Pretend a tea towel or scarf is a flapping moth, and tell the moth all about what you can see in the photos.

Describe how it looked, where it was, and what you could hear. See if your child will join in the storytelling!

"Who are you?" Wonders moth.

Make a night time character from bits and bobs in your home.

Moths fluttering, bats swooping, hedgehogs snuffling, owls hooting...

We can make a moth out of our fingers and a scarf. I wonder if you could use an up-turned brush as a hedgehog or a big black hat as a bat.

Don't worry about your story needing to be complicated. A character waking up, exploring their environment and then going back to sleep is plenty enough excitement!

"What is that?" asks moth.

Take your little person outside for a small adventure.

With your child, choose something safe and (fairly!) clean to take back inside, like a leaf or a twig. Put it in a little bag with a scarf/tea towel moth and a surprise household object.

Present the bag to your child and work together to find a story that links the objects.

Perhaps the moth lands on the leaf and finds a shiny spoon. She thinks her reflection is another moth and is so surprised she flies back into the bag to hide!

Repeat with other surprise objects. Perhaps your child would like to choose.

Talking

Together

in Cambridgeshire

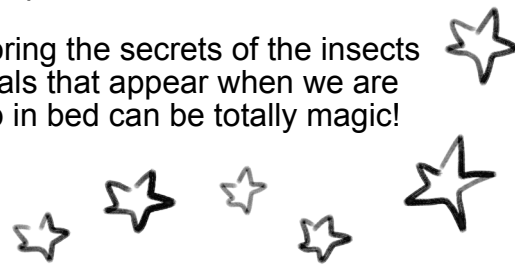
Resource created by
Rose Feather in 2024
for Festival of Stories,
Talking Together in
Cambridgeshire

Getting to know moths...



Sharing a love for all animals, insects and plants with a small child is a joyful way to foster a respect for nature....

and exploring the secrets of the insects and animals that appear when we are tucked up in bed can be totally magic!



Whether you have a big garden, a balcony, some flower pots on a patio or enjoy green spaces at your local park or childcare setting, we can all support moths to thrive.



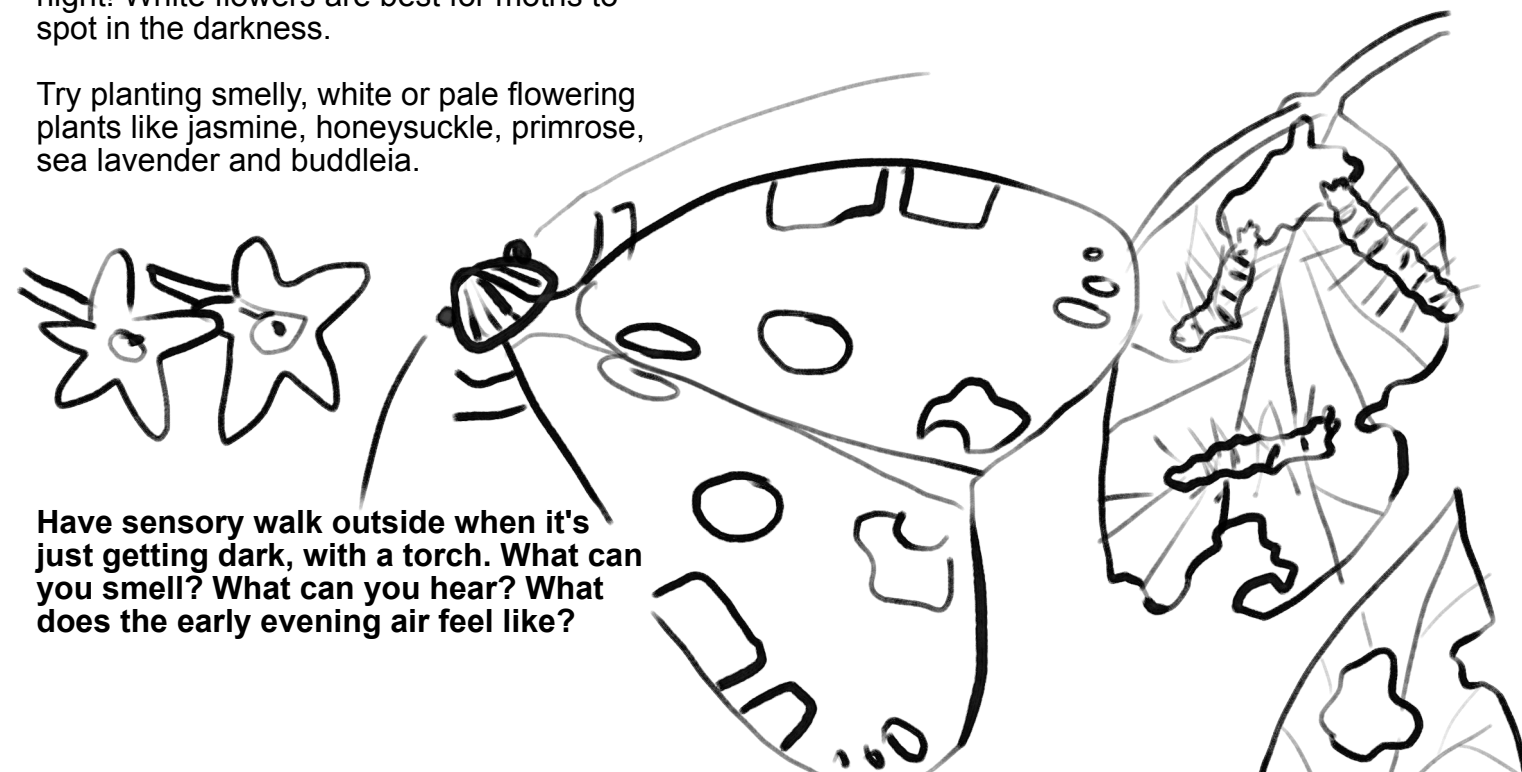
Tell the life story of a moth at home...

- 1 Wriggle your finger to make a hungry caterpillar. Where might she explore today?
- 2 Wrap your caterpillar finger in a scarf or tea towel to make it's silky cocoon.
- 3 Fling off the scarf or tea towel and flap it around like a moth's wings. Whoosh!
- 4 Fly your fabric moth around until you find somewhere cosy to lay eggs.
- 5 Imagine a new little caterpillar emerging... and the whole game can start again!

Get smelly!

Moths love flowers which get smelly at night! White flowers are best for moths to spot in the darkness.

Try planting smelly, white or pale flowering plants like jasmine, honeysuckle, primrose, sea lavender and buddleia.



Have sensory walk outside when it's just getting dark, with a torch. What can you smell? What can you hear? What does the early evening air feel like?

Caterpillars need to munch lots of grasses and leaves to help them turn into moths.

Rather than groan at a nibbled leaf, point them out to your little person and wonder about the beautiful moth that the hungry caterpillars might have turned into!

Don't tidy up!

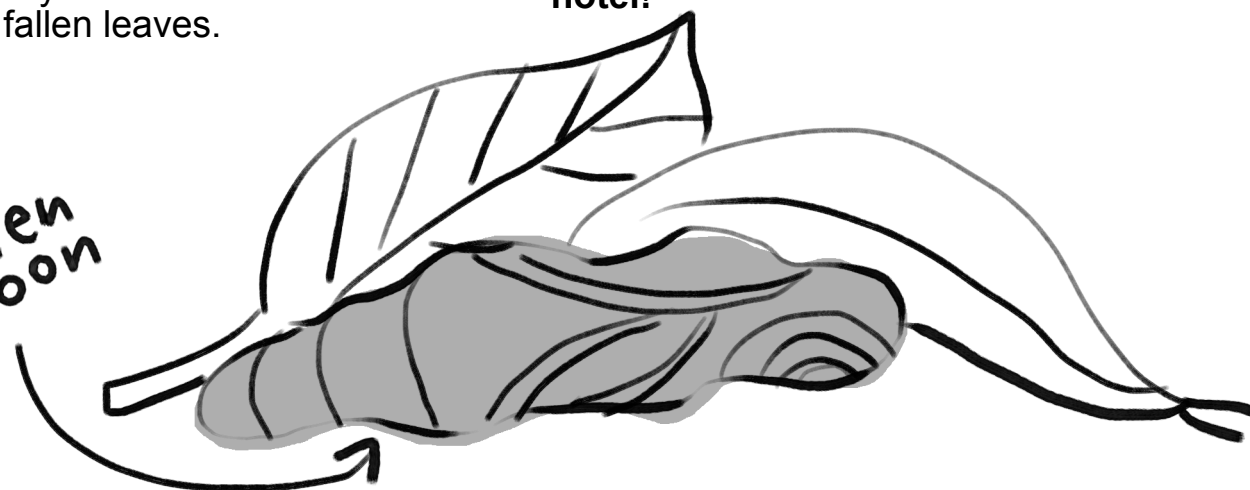
Many moth caterpillars spin silky cocoons, like a warm sleeping bag to keep them safe while they transform into moths.

Moths in their cocoons don't usually hang down from trees like butterflies, instead they bury themselves in the soil or hide under fallen leaves.

Leave an area messy and wild in your garden or green space so moth caterpillars can hide in there.

Let some grass grow long, leave dead leaves on the ground and ask your little one to help you pile up dead wood to make a caterpillar hotel!

hidden cocoon



More ideas:

www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/moths-in-your-garden

www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-attract-moths-and-bats-your-garden

Lay moth eggs here ↓

Draw or finger paint little eggs on these nettles!

