



# Life Cycle Cards

## Episode 2

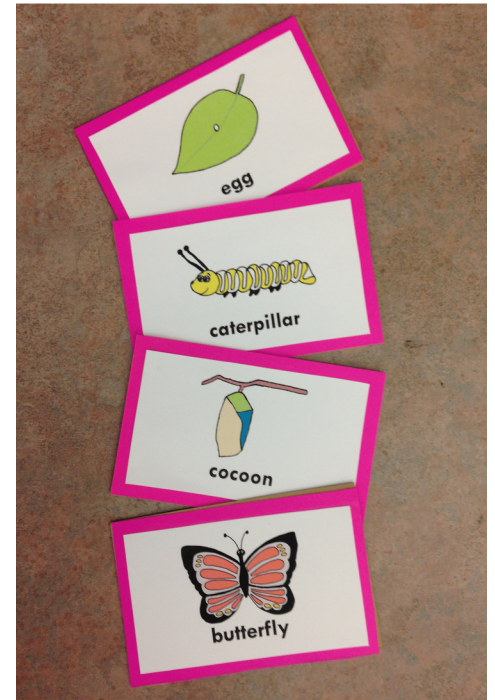
### Introduction

At some point, everyone has to learn how to tell a story. This knowledge is called narrative skills, and it's an important skill to get your child ready to read.

One way to teach these skills is with simple life cycle story cards. This activity is all about developing narrative skills--specifically, story structure, or how stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end. For this tutorial, we'll be making cards with the life cycle of a butterfly. Read on instructions for this easy craft!

### Supplies

- Paper
- A cardboard box/cereal box
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Life cycle cards print-out
- Colorful paper (optional)
- Magnets (optional)



### Instructions

1. Create pictures for your life cycle cards: Use our life cycle card print-out. Print Page 1 and cut along the dotted lines. We'll call these your "picture cards".
2. Create a cardboard backing to make your cards more durable: Using the "cardboard backing" template included on Page 3, cut out four rectangles from your cardboard box/cereal box.
  - a. (Optional) Make a colorful background for your cards using the "cardboard backing" template to cut four more rectangles from colorful paper.

### Additional Resources

Visit Plano Public Library's official [YouTube channel](#) to view this activity and other Library Make videos

Check out our blog post about this activity at [Plano Library Learns](#)

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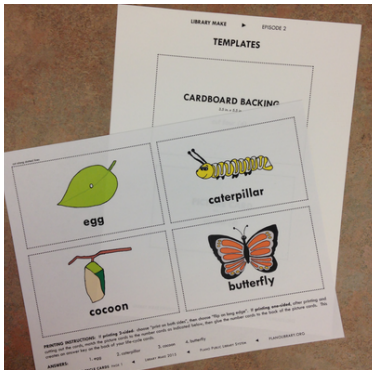


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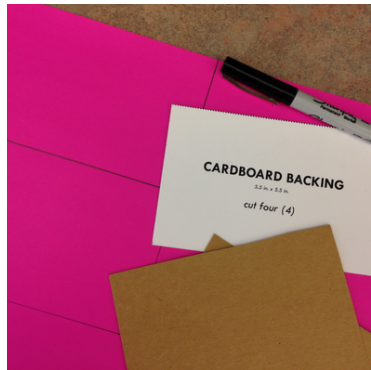
## Episode 2

### Instructions, continued

3. Glue your picture cards to the cardboard backing: If you've cut out some colorful paper to create a background for your cards, glue this to the cardboard backing first, then glue your picture cards on top.
4. (Optional) Add magnets: Glue magnets to the back of your cards and keep them on the front of your fridge or dishwasher.



Step 1: Print out life cycle cards



Step 2: Make cardboard backings



Step 3: Glue picture cards

### How to Use Your Life Cycle Cards

Lay out the cards in order; for our cards, that's egg, caterpillar, cocoon, and butterfly. Name each stage and explain a bit about each to your child. Then explain the concepts of a beginning, middle and end, using your life cycle cards to demonstrate these ideas. Finally, encourage your child to try putting the cards in order on their own. Keep practicing—they'll get the hang of it!

For further learning, you can also create more cards for a different life cycle—the four seasons, the steps of a seed growing into a flower, etc.

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# TEMPLATES

## CARDBOARD BACKING

3.5 in. x 5.5 in.

*cut four (4)*

## PICTURE CARD

3 in. x 5 in.

*cut four (4)*