



Magic Tricks For The Month Of:

April

Change Bag:

- The change bag I sell is what's known as a double load, which means it has two chambers instead of one and two "triggers" or "gizmos" to flip.
- It's great to show the many stages of the life-cycle of something.
- For example: Use a butterfly puppet to rest on your change bag. She lays some eggs into the 1st chamber.
- You have already shown your students that the bag was empty. You now show them the eggs.
- Say the magic words: Butterflies lay about 500 eggs and they turn into caterpillars! And produce a caterpillar from the second chamber. Put the caterpillar back into the chamber with the eggs and have the children say the magic words METAMORPHOSIS! And produce a butterfly out of the second chamber.
- If you have a chrysalis, you could have the caterpillar spin a chrysalis and produce that instead of the butterfly.
- I own several change bags so that I can then produce a butterfly after I have produced a chrysalis.
- It's also fun to repeat the cycle again by having this butterfly pretend to lay some eggs, produce the eggs again and then the caterpillar, showing that the entire cycle repeats over and over again.

- The caterpillar is of course sniffing/crying because you changed him back. He wants to stay a butterfly so he can fly!
- Very quickly have the children say metamorphosis and very quickly change him back to a butterfly "punching" out the sack so the butterfly flutters out.
- I then pass out rubber eggs, caterpillars, chrysalis's and butterflies that I bought in a tub from Insectlore.com and my students work in groups of 3 patterning the life cycle of a butterfly.
- When everyone feels confident that they've got the cycle down, they challenge the teacher to a game of "Speed-Cycle".
- We sit in a circle, I have a set of rubber pieces and so does the student-challenger. Someone says "Ready-set-fly!" and we arrange them in butterfly-egg-caterpillar-chrysalis-butterfly order.
- My students LOVE this game. I do the same with rainbow colored blocks and challenge them to put them in red-orange-yellow-green-blue-purple order after we get done with the rainbow magic trick and they've all played with the blocks in a group of three as they've done here.
- **A paper cloud, and raindrop go in**, a felt cloud that I've glued silver tinsel to the bottom to, comes out. My students will be making a cloud mobile with tinsel "rain" and rainbow-colored flowers cascading down. The caption on the cloud reads: *April showers bring may flowers.* (See [Spring Art + Activities Pictures for hallway pix of these awesome sparkling mobiles.](#))
- **Put in the fruit/food that the caterpillar eats**, pull out a mini book of *The Hungry Caterpillar*. I make mini books by scanning the cover of a book. I print the scan in color, then I shrink it down to a smaller size that will fit nicely into my

change bag. I laminate the cover and then staple some white paper pages to the inside.

- **We toss "garbage" in the change bag** and some wonderful art project emerges that the children will be making. I try to have 1/2 dozen examples of trash turned to treasure for them to see how important and fun recycling can be.

Dove Pan:

- I have a fabric set of all of the hungry caterpillar's food that he eats. When I read the story, I pass out the pieces to my students and they put them on the flannel board as I come to them in the story. We review the sequence at the end of the story and then I re-pass out the manipulatives and have the children try to sequence the food again. I produce the food in the dove pan. **I put a color-copy of the cover of the book into the dove pan**, and out comes the fabric pieces.
- Because the caterpillar is eating, I sometimes have one of the things that he ate as a special snack for my students that day. They'll pretend to be hungry hungry caterpillars and crawl to their seat ready to eat!
- **I put the ingredients for a recycling mobile into the pot** (yarn, piece of green construction paper, board icon of the scissors and glue stick) and out comes one of the recycling mobiles.
- **Clip art of a garbage can goes in**, Ricky my recycling raccoon puppet hiding in a garbage can comes out.
- I have a weather puppet for each one of the types of weather. (sun, rainbow, raindrop, snowflake etc.) You can buy them from **Oriental Trading™**. When I want to read a story about weather, or we are studying or discussing the weather, I produce the appropriate puppet from a paper piece-look-alike. Thus: **A paper raindrop goes in**, out comes an adorable soft blue raindrop puppet.

