READY, SET, GO!!!!!

Whether it’s your birthday, a summer picnic or you’re just having a few friends over, why not play “butterfly hunt”? You can run around, get fresh air and exercise, and best of all no butterflies are harmed in this wild, playful game.

We used a rainy spring day to prepare for this activity. Print 10 color copies of the following page of butterflies (or one page per child). Cut out each butterfly. Older children will cut more carefully around the edges, younger children can “bubble cut” (make a very general cut around the butterfly). Note- we found it too hard to cut out the antennae, so just trimmed them off the picture entirely.

We love laminating! It makes the butterfly cutouts last for years. Our very inexpensive laminator and laminating sheets are from Walgreens. Fill a laminating sheet with cut out butterflies. Follow laminator directions and run the sheet through the laminator, sealing the butterfly cut outs inside. This part always seems magical when they become clear and shiny. Cut again around each butterfly shape.

On the day of the hunt hide the butterflies among plants or beside chairs – anywhere within a set boundary. After handing out butterfly nets (ours are from the dollar store) and explaining some rules - no hitting with nets, no catching other children with nets, don’t go farther than the sidewalk etc., you’re ready to play. READY, SET, GO!!!!!

When all butterflies are found, count your catch! The one with the most gets to hide the butterflies for round two.

left- getting ready for the hunt right- “You never said we can’t catch ourselves!”

contributed by Salt Creek Butterfly Farm