

Letter to Families

Send families a letter introducing the study. Use the letter to communicate with families and as an opportunity to invite their participation in the study.

Dear families,

We have noticed that the children are very interested in balls. They are curious about different kinds of balls, how people use balls, what they are made of, what is inside them, and how high they can bounce. We think balls will make an interesting study topic.

If you can, we would like your help to gather a collection of balls for the children to investigate. We will need many different types of balls. Here is a list of suggestions, but you may also send in balls that are not on the list. We will take good care of them so we can return them to you at the end of the study.

baseball	doggie ball	pool (billiard) ball
basketball	football	racquetball
beach ball	golf ball	soccer ball
bowling ball	kickball	tennis ball
cotton ball	marble	volleyball
crystal ball	table tennis ball	

As we study balls, we will learn concepts and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology. We will also use thinking skills to investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions, and test our ideas.

What You Can Do at Home

Spend time with your child playing with balls of different shapes, types, and sizes, such as playground balls, tennis balls, table tennis balls, volleyballs, baseballs, footballs, and marbles. Talk about what the balls are made of, whether they are heavy or light, and whether they are big or little.

Wonder aloud with your child to encourage his thinking about balls. For example, you might say, “I wonder how far you can throw a foil ball, a beach ball, and a tennis ball. How can we find out?” Help your child use all of his senses when playing with balls. You might ask, “What does this ball look like? Feel like? Sound like? Smell like?”

See how many types of balls you can find around the house and in your neighborhood.

Play a game while riding in a car, bus, or train in which you and your child think of words that contain the word ball. Look for examples of balls in your community.

At the end of our study, we will have a special event to show you what we have learned. Thank you for playing an important role in our learning.