

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,

When we are outside, children often ask questions about our building. They want to know the height of the school building, what it is made of, and how strong it is. They also ask many questions about the way it looks. Their ongoing interest in our building helped us realize that buildings would make a good study topic.

To get the study started, we are gathering all sorts of pictures of buildings. We could really use your help! We welcome pictures from any source, such as newspapers or magazines, postcards, the Internet, and your family's photo collection. It would be wonderful if you could include pictures of buildings in other parts of the world, too. Here is a list of suggestions, but you may also send in pictures of buildings that are not on the list.

houses	inns	factories
apartments	office buildings	skyscrapers
barns	schools	theaters
sheds	stores	concert halls
castles	churches	museums
cottages	synagogues	parking garages
cabins	mosques	gas stations
bungalows	post offices	mechanic shops
huts	grocery stores	government buildings
yurts	libraries	community centers
shacks	restaurants	
hotels/motels	hospitals	

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

What You Can Do at Home

Study your home with your child. What materials were used to build it? How many floors or stories does it have? How many rooms, windows, and doors does it have? (Do not forget the basement if you have one!) How old is your home? Who built it? What are its dimensions?

Talk with your child about the buildings that you see together. Keep a list of the buildings that interest your child. Help your child investigate questions similar to the ones mentioned above.

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