

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,

Our class is beginning to study trees. We will be observing and comparing trees to learn about what lives in them, what they are made from, and who cares for them. We hope that this study will help children explore and appreciate nature. As we study trees, we will use language and literacy, math, the arts, and technology to explore the topic in depth. We will learn important social studies and scientific concepts through firsthand investigations. Please visit the classroom during the study to see how we do this.

We would appreciate your help in collecting tree parts to investigate. If you are able to take a “tree walk” with your child, please carry a bag with you to collect things that have fallen, such as leaves, bark, acorns, twigs, flowers, fruit, or cones. See below for suggestions of other tree parts to bring in.

small limbs, branches, twigs	evergreen sprigs or small boughs	seeds
food from trees (fruit)	a live, potted tree	tree “cookies” (cross sections of trees that show the rings)
pinecones	flower clippings (can be kept in water)	tree bark

What You Can Do at Home

You can help your child explore and appreciate nature by learning about trees. Invite your child to talk about trees. Share stories about your favorite childhood memories involving trees and games you might have played around trees. Wonder aloud with your child to encourage his thinking about trees:

“I wonder why leaves fall from trees.”

“I wonder what makes some trees grow so big.”

At home, collect parts of trees, and encourage your child to sort them. Your child might also enjoy making a collage by arranging and gluing tree items on paper.

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