

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,

Most preschool children love playing with water and are drawn to its many uses. From splashing water in the sink to filling up and pouring out cups of water at the sand and water table, children enjoy exploring water in different ways. We have noticed the children asking questions about water and showing interest in the different ways people use it, how it can change from one form to another, and how it helps people and the environment. The children’s ongoing curiosity about water has helped us realize that water would make a good study topic.

We need your help gathering everyday materials that can be used with water. We will need many different types of household and outdoor items that use water, along with books and pictures related to water. Here is a list of suggested items, but you may also send in items 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.

liquid measuring cups	washcloths	garden hose
measuring spoons	towels	empty plastic water
basters	empty soap dispensers	bottles with lids
eyedroppers	empty pet food	books that feature
food coloring	containers	water
spray bottles	watering can	
sponges	ice cube trays	

As we study water, we will learn concepts and skills in language and literacy, math, science, social studies, 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

Talk with your child about how water is used during daily routines, such as when brushing teeth, washing hands, and cooking. Take a walk around your neighborhood and notice the different sources of water, such as fire hydrants, water fountains, spigots, sprinklers, and garden hoses. Offer your child opportunities to observe and discuss water in its different states (solid, liquid, gas), such as when they see steam on the bathroom mirror or ice in the freezer. This will help develop your child’s observation skills and help them make connections between what they are learning at school and things in the community and at home.

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.