

# A Letter to Families

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**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's 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, printouts from 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's a list of suggestions, but you may also send in pictures of buildings that are not on the list.

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

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 house or apartment building 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? Don't 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 we mentioned above.

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