

Letter to Families

Dear families,

Each morning as you prepare for the day, you help your child brush their teeth and hair. You may sweep up crumbs from breakfast or use a scrub brush to wash your child's cereal bowl. With these routine activities, you could have used four different kinds of brushes! Two-year-old children watch how the important adults in their lives do things and are often eager to imitate what they see. You may have noticed your child picking up the broom to help you sweep, wanting a turn to brush his or her own teeth, or pulling a chair over to help you wash the dishes. In our classroom, we have many brushes children can use to create art, pretend play, and care for the classroom environment. The children's curiosity about these brushes and how people use them have inspired us to introduce a study of brushes.

We need your help gathering a collection of brushes and related materials for the children to investigate. We'll need many different types of brushes that people use at home and at school. Here's a list of suggested items, but you may also send in items that are not on the list. Many of the items, such as paintbrushes and brooms, can be incorporated into our classroom materials or shared with another class at the end of the study. Please label with your name any items you would like returned. We'll take good care of them and will return them at the end of the study.

paintbrushes of various sizes	hand brushes	toothbrushes	books and pictures that feature people using brushes (e.g., dentists, hairstylists, pet groomers)
basting brushes	bottle brushes	hairbrushes for various types of hair	
vegetable brushes	scrub brushes	makeup brushes	
brooms	straw brushes	dolls with hair that can be brushed	
dustpans	nail brushes		
	pet brushes		

As we study brushes, children will develop language and literacy skills, as they name and describe a brush's color, shape, and size; fine-motor skills, as they hold and use brushes to create art, care for dolls and themselves, and clean; social skills, as they interact with each other to explore brushes and with adults to learn how people use them; and a growing sense of independence, as they practice self-care skills and help take care of the classroom environment.

What You Can Do at Home

Notice the welcome activity we set up each morning. These activities are for you and your child to engage in together, and they reflect what we are currently learning and investigating in the classroom. Look for similar materials at home that you can explore with your child, such as brushes you use to cook or clean. Invite your child to explore the brushes and discuss what they look like and how you use them.

Thank you for being a part of our study and our learning!