

Letter to Families

Dear families,

From the day they were born, getting dressed has been a part of your child's daily routines. When your child was an infant, you dressed your child in soft, comfortable clothes to keep them cozy and warm. As your child has gotten older, you may have noticed that they are developing their own preferences for the clothes they like to wear and are beginning to express themselves in their outfit choices.

Young children are often interested in the variety of colors, textures, materials, and patterns that clothes come in and enjoy exploring features such as zippers, buttons, and snaps. Two-year-old children are also beginning to engage in more dramatic play activities that can be meaningfully supported by offering a variety of dress-up clothes. These characteristics of clothes and the children's curiosity has inspired us to introduce a study of clothes.

We need your help gathering a collection of clothes for the children to investigate. We'll need many different types of clothes. Here's a list of suggested items, but you may also send in items that are not on the list. Please label any items you would like returned to you with your name. We'll take good care of them so we can return them to you at the end of the study.

T-shirts	saris	rain boots	shorts	costumes
pants	jerseys	rain hats	skirts	dresses
sweaters	leotards	suits	pajamas	sweatpants
jackets	robes	work shirts	scarves	pajamas
hats	vests	blouses	belts	scarves
gloves	parkas	flannel shirts	mittens	shoes
uniforms	windbreakers	smocks	hijabs	ponchos
helmets	rain coats	aprons	tights	

As we study clothes, children will develop fine-motor skills as they open and close buttons, zippers, and snaps; social skills as they explore clothes alongside other children and learn about the special clothes other people wear; and cognitive skills as they sort and explore clothes and incorporate them into dramatic play experiences.

What You Can Do at Home

Notice the welcome activity set up each morning for you and your child. These activities that you and your child will engage in 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 sharing with your child what you wear to work or for any special hobbies you have.

Draw your child's attention to their own clothes and invite them to help choose what they wear each day by offering two or three appropriate options. Invite your child to explore the clothes your family wears for daily activities and special occasions and talk with your child about why you chose them.

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