

Letter to Families

Dear families,

Have you ever noticed your child playing with a container? You may have seen them play with, for example, a bucket, a lunchbox, or a bottle. Many children are fascinated by the containers they use each day as they play, create, eat, and drink. We've noticed children filling up and dumping out containers; stacking them; exploring sand and water with them; and using them to independently complete tasks, such as throwing away trash in the trash can and using a spray bottle of water to help clean the table. The children's curiosities about the containers they use at school have inspired us to introduce a study of containers.

We need your help gathering a collection of containers for the children to investigate. We'll need many different types of containers that we 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 clean food containers and jars, can be recycled or shared with another class at the end of the study. 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.

shoeboxes	jars	baby bottles	tissue boxes
take-out containers	boxes	lunchboxes	jugs
bowls	spray bottles	milk cartons	cereal boxes
measuring cups	toothpaste tubes	trash cans	food storage containers
soap dispensers	shape sorters	wipes containers	canisters
nesting cups	classroom bins	paint cups	baskets

During our study of containers, children will develop language and literacy skills as they name and describe containers by color, shape, size, and function; practice math skills as they count containers and explore how much they can hold; and experience a growing sense of independence as they do new things for themselves.

What You Can Do at Home

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

Containers are also a wonderful addition to dramatic-play activities. Using clean and empty food storage containers, cartons, cereal and oatmeal boxes, yogurt cups, etc., during play encourages your child to explore containers with you.

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