

Letter to Families

Dear families,

Young children explore and use paper in many ways each day. Perhaps you have seen your child excitedly rip the wrapping paper off of a present and enjoy playing with the cardboard box more than the present itself, or maybe your child has proudly shown you a picture they colored. In our classroom, we have observed children making marks on paper, tearing paper, and using paper products during everyday routines. Paper plays an important role in your child's life and provides endless opportunities to explore different colors, textures, shapes, and functions. Our observations of the children using paper have inspired us to introduce a study of paper.

We need your help gathering a collection of paper and other materials to support the children's investigations. Here is a list of suggested items, but you may also send in items that are not on the list.

cardboard boxes	wrapping paper	wax paper	cardboard tubes
tissue paper	paper gift bags	parchment paper	watercolor paper
cardstock	greeting cards	paper muffin cups	finger painting paper
construction paper	envelopes	notecards	printer paper
newspaper	sandpaper	paper streamers	scrap paper
paper cups	coffee filters	notepads	
paper plates	paper towels	order pads	
napkins	empty tissue boxes	sticky notes	

As we study paper, children will develop language and literacy skills as they talk about the different types of paper and how they use them; social skills as they create art with paper alongside peers; fine-motor skills as they tear paper and cut paper with scissors; and cognitive skills as they explore, attend to, and engage in activities using paper.

What You Can Do at Home

Notice the welcome activity set up each morning for you to engage in with 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.

Go on a paper hunt in your home to find different types of paper. As you find items, talk with your child about how you use the paper and what the paper looks and feels like. Encourage your child to create with paper. Plan activities at home where they can tear, fold, cut, and draw on paper. Help your child as they work on these activities and describe their actions as they explore paper.

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