

Letter to Families

Dear families,

From the time many children start walking, they begin noticing, playing with, and collecting rocks. You might have noticed your child picking up and examining rocks outside or pointing to rocks they notice as you walk around the neighborhood. We've observed children finding and collecting rocks and noticing their colors and textures. The children's curiosity about the rocks have inspired us to introduce a study of rocks.

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

rocks of various sizes, colors, and shapes
magnifying glasses

buckets
cardboard boxes
scrub brushes

pictures and books that feature rocks and things made of rocks

As we study rocks, children will develop language and literacy skills as they name and describe the rocks' colors, shapes, and sizes; math skills as they count and compare rocks; fine-motor skills as they handle and explore rocks; and cognitive skills as they match rocks and use them in new and inventive ways.

What You Can Do at Home

Notice the welcome activity we set up each morning for you and your child. These activities for you and your child to engage in reflect what we are currently learning and investigating in the classroom and can give you ideas about activities you can do at home with your child.

Take your child on a "rock hunt" around your community or neighborhood. As you collect rocks together, talk with your child about what the rocks look and feel like, compare their sizes and colors, and point out things in your community that are made of rocks, such as a stone wall or path.

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