

Letter to Families

Dear families,

Each day, you help your children put on their shoes as they get ready for school or to go outside to play. Your children might show you how fast they can run or how they can kick, climb, and jump in their shoes. While looking at the children's shoes in our classroom, we noticed that there are many different colors, patterns, sizes, and closures that the children can identify and explore. The children's curiosity about their shoes and the many observable differences the children can discover about shoes have inspired us to introduce a study of shoes.

We need your help gathering a collection of clean shoes and related materials for the children to investigate. We will need many different types of clean shoes, pictures of shoes, and clean socks. Here is a list of suggested items, but you may also send in items that are not on the list. Some items might be shared with another class at the end of the study or added to our dramatic play collection. Please label any items you would like returned to you with your name. We will take good care of them so we can return them to you at the end of the study.

sandals	dress shoes	doll shoes	ballet slippers
clogs	boat shoes	snow boots	cleats or other sports shoes
sneakers	shoes with heels	snow shoes	pictures of special shoes from different cultures
boots	work boots	socks	
rain boots	rubber clogs	tights	
slippers	wooden clogs	tap shoes	

Through their investigations, the children will build language and literacy skills as they describe their shoes' color, shape, size, and fasteners; cognitive skills as they persist at and problem-solve putting on and taking off their shoes; and math skills as they match shoes and compare their sizes. Your children will also gain confidence and build independence as they practice putting on their socks and shoes.

What You Can Do at Home

Notice the welcome activity set up each morning for you and your child to engage in together. These activities reflect what we are currently learning and investigating in the classroom and can give you ideas for activities you can do at home with your child. For example, you could talk about your child's shoes and explore shoes that you wear for sports activities or special occasions. Invite your child to explore the shoes. Discuss what they look like and how you use them.

Shoes are also a wonderful addition to dramatic play activities. Using boots, sandals, sneakers, and other shoes during play encourages your child to explore different roles and activities with you.

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