

Dear parents and caregivers,

We are about to start a new unit in science in which we will be exploring materials and structures. Through a variety of hands-on activities and investigations, your child will be learning about various structures and their parts, what materials are best suited to particular structures, what makes structures strong and stable, and how to make their own strong structure.

You can talk to your child at home about materials and structures. Walk with your child around your home and help him or her to identify different structures (including furniture and household items) and various materials (including those used to build your home). Encourage your child to identify what materials were used to make each structure, and why.

You can plan some activities with your child to focus on materials and structures. For example:

- Ask your child to choose a material, and then discuss what would happen if certain structures around your home were made of that material.
- Go on a scavenger hunt with your child to find several structures made of the same material, then discuss why that material was chosen for those items.
- Build various structures with your child, using playing cards, Lego bricks, wooden blocks, etc. and discuss how to make the structures more stable and stronger.

You can also invite your child to look for various types of joints and fasteners around your home. Discuss with your child why certain joints and fasteners are used for certain materials and structures.

To ensure a wide range of experiences and make connections between this topic and your child's world, he/she may choose to bring one or more personal items to school for exploration during in-class activities. These items will be returned home once explorations are completed. To determine whether the item(s) is appropriate please contact me, your child's teacher.

Sincerely,