

# Hello, Family!

Over the next month, our class will learn about what makes a community. We will read books about the people and places in a community, and the ways in which we all work together to make a community strong.

Children will write letters to teach others about our community, and the whole class will collaborate to build a 3-D map of the places around school that make up our community.

## Bring It Home

Here are some ideas for practicing the skills we are learning at school.

<b>SPEAK UP!</b>	<b>BIG IDEA WORDS</b>												
<p>Show how to speak clearly and use an appropriate voice level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remind your child that people can hear you better if you keep your hands away from your face when speaking.</li> <li>• Tell your child when he or she is using a voice that is too loud, too quiet, or just right for the situation.</li> </ul>	<p>Reinforce these important topic words when you are reading or talking with your child:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">community location neighbor</p>												
<b>WORD PLAY</b>	<b>WORDS TO KNOW</b>												
<p>Play with sounds, letters, and words to help develop skills that are important for reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think of words that start with the same sound as your child's first name. Then do the same for names of other people in your family.</li> <li>• Practice making letters and words with all different materials. Try sidewalk chalk, playdough, sand, and shaving cream!</li> </ul>	<p>Practice reading and spelling these words that children will see a lot in books they read:</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>an</td> <td>did</td> <td>has</td> <td>he</td> </tr> <tr> <td>in</td> <td>it</td> <td>me</td> <td>put</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ran</td> <td>she</td> <td>sits</td> <td>with</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	an	did	has	he	in	it	me	put	ran	she	sits	with
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<b>LET'S READ TOGETHER</b>	<b>LETTERS AND LISTS</b>												
<p>Make a special time and place to read with your child every day. While you read, ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What happens in the beginning/middle/end?</i></li> <li>• <i>What is the story about? Tell me in your own words.</i></li> <li>• <i>What clue in the picture shows what the word ____ means?</i></li> </ul>	<p>Support your child to write letters and lists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work together to write shopping lists or "to do" lists with pictures and words.</li> <li>• Send cards, letters, or e-mail to family members who live far away. Your child will love getting a response!</li> <li>• Write thank you notes for gifts or other acts of kindness. Have your child tell you what to write, and "sign" his or her name.</li> </ul>												