

Dear Wondrous Whales Pre-K for All Families,

We hope you enjoyed our first unit of study, Welcome to Pre-K! We are excited to begin Unit 2: My Five Senses. Pre-K children naturally use their senses to explore the world around them. In our pre-K program, your child will have the opportunity to develop a wide variety of skills by using his/her senses in hands on learning and play. In this unit we are working on developing children's abilities to take in information about the world through sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. We will take walks around the neighborhood, go on scavenger hunts and engage in many other activities where children use their senses. Children are active learners; they have been exploring their environment through their senses since birth. We encourage the children to see themselves as scientists and to make observations and predictions using the information that they take in through their senses.

We also use our senses to stay safe and will be talking about this throughout the study. We will learn about being careful and remembering not to touch sharp objects, things that are hot or things that are very dirty and might make us sick. You can help with this! Ask your child about some of the things outside of school or at home that are too dangerous to touch. How do we use our senses of sight, smell and hearing to stay safe?

In addition to staying safe we will talk about how to keep our hands, feet and skin clean and healthy. One way we do that in our pre-K program is by washing our hands before eating, after playing outside or after touching things that are dirty. We will learn a new song to help remind us how to wash hands. You might want to sing it with your child. It is sung to the tune of Frère Jacques.

***Tops and bottoms, tops and bottoms, in between, in between, All around my hands, all around my hands, make them clean, make them clean!***

We are also talking to the children about how life might be different for people who do not see or hear well. We will be talking about Braille, for example, and introducing a few words in sign language.

Here is a list of some of the key vocabulary words that we are learning through this unit of study. We encourage you to use these words with your children as appropriate:

- Braille •blind •deaf •ears •eyes •hear •listen •mouth •nose •predict •quiet •safe •see •senses •smell •taste •touch

We hope you have a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing you again on Monday!

Ms. Lorraine and Mr. Monica

# **Wondrous Whales Family and Community Engagement**

Watching children learn and explore can be very fulfilling. I invite you to engage with your child in doing two of the activities listed below. We look forward to hearing all about your explorations at our next culminating activity November 1, 2019 at 8:00 am. Most importantly, don't forget to have fun!

- 1) Look out of a window (store, bus, subway, bedroom, etc.) with your child and discuss what they see at various times throughout the day. What do they see that reminds them of fall? What do they see in the morning? In the evening? Right before bed? What is different each time they look? What is the same? Why?
  
- 2) Take a sensory walk together. Pay attention to what they hear, see, feel and smell. Additionally, encourage them to discuss how they can use their senses to stay safe when walking outside. How do our eyes help keep us safe? For example, looking for cars before crossing the street or identifying unsafe items to touch such as garbage or sharp items. How about our ears? Can our sense of smell help keep us safe? How
  
- 3) Invite your children to smell or taste a new food or something they would not usually eat. Provide prompts to encourage discussion, how does it look? What do you see? How does the food feel before you try it? How does it feel in your mouth? How does it taste? How does it smell? Would you try it again? Why or why not
  
- 4) Fall Brown Bag Scavenger Hunt, your child will go home with a brown paper bag by week 3. Find items of various textures at home or natural objects collected from outside, related to fall, that are clean and safe for small children to handle such as pinecones, acorns or leaves. Talk about why certain items might be safe or not safe. Put them in the bag for children to bring to school and share with a partner. Please do not send items that are valuable and may get lost.