

Dear Pre-K For All Families,

For the month of December, we will focus on the concept of Where We Live.

In Unit 4: Where We Live, children move from inquiring and thinking critically about themselves, their classmates and their family to the spaces that those people inhabit. This unit is designed to reflect the diverse places where people live in neighborhoods across New York City. Children begin this unit by investigating themselves and the people important to them by considering the first week's focus questions, "Where do I live? Where do my family members live?" They will read about different kinds of homes, including apartments, houses, etc. and discuss where different members of their families live. After children consider the different kinds of homes in which they and the people they know live, they will start to consider animals and investigate a more abstract concept: animal homes.

In this unit, children develop a concept and awareness of the diversity of living environments and explore how New Yorkers live in many types of homes and buildings. This unit provides an opportunity to explore a wide variety of living environments and reiterate Pre-K for All's commitment to including and embracing all children and families by ensuring all students feel represented in the classroom. Opportunities to develop children's literacy skills are interwoven throughout the unit. There are many opportunities to enjoy literature, engage in discussions around books, retell and act out stories the children have read. In this unit we continue to generate excitement for letters by highlighting a few letters that frequently come up in books, discussions and other activities.

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 child as appropriate:

~address ~apartment ~architect ~attic ~backyard ~basement ~bedroom ~blueprints ~borough
~bricks ~brownstone ~build ~builder ~burrow ~castle ~cement ~city ~concrete ~construction
~den ~door ~downstairs ~elevator ~escape ~exit ~façade ~far ~farm ~fire ~floor ~floor ~plans
~garage ~glass ~habitat ~hibernate ~hive ~home ~homeless ~house ~metal ~near
~neighborhood ~nest ~pet ~roads ~roof ~shelter ~shingles ~skyline ~skyscraper ~stairs ~straw
~street ~tools ~upstairs ~window ~wood