

Dear Pre-K For All Families,

For the month of January, we will focus on the concept of Light.

In Unit 6: Light, children move from exploring various modes and aspects of transportation to inquiring and thinking critically about light, darkness and shadows. This unit, like all Pre-K for All units, provides opportunities for children to observe objects and phenomena in their environment with increasing complexity. In this unit, children have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of natural and man-made sources of light.

In this unit, Children will observe, discuss and explore what they know about natural and man-made light. In the second week children will have learning experiences and activities that encourage them to think about darkness. In the third week, children focus on the question, "How does light help us?" They will continue to consider the how light affects our world, for example through conducting an experiment on growing plants in the light and in the dark. In the final week, children explore shadows by using flashlights and other light sources in the classroom as well as experimenting with shadows outside. Through these explorations they are making science content and scientific thinking accessible and meaningful to children and building on their curiosity about science concepts.

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:

~Battery ~candle ~clouds ~curve ~dark ~day ~diurnal ~electricity ~eyes ~eyesight ~fire  
~firefly ~flame ~flashlight ~grow ~heat ~horizontal ~lamp ~lantern ~light ~light bulb ~lightning ~  
lines ~melt ~mirror ~moon ~night ~nocturnal ~opaque ~outline ~parallel ~rainbow ~reflection  
~see ~shade ~shadow ~sight ~silhouette ~solar power ~spiral ~stars ~straight ~street light  
~sun ~sunglasses ~traffic light ~translucent ~transparent ~vertical ~wavy ~weather ~zigzag