

Hello, Family!

It's hard to believe, but our kindergarten year is almost over. Thank you for taking the time to read, write, and learn along with your child.

Over this last month, we will explore what makes a habitat a home. As a class, we will read about how animals live in forests, deserts, and polar regions. Children will use sources to research and answer their questions about animals, and everyone will create their very own model of an animal habitat.

Bring It Home

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

<p style="text-align: center;">DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT</p> <p>Support your child to stay on topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind your child what you are talking about if he or she gets distracted. • Show your child how to ask a question or make a comment during a conversation. • Teach your child to wait until a conversation is over before talking about a new topic. 	<p style="text-align: center;">BIG IDEA WORDS</p> <p>Reinforce these important topic words when you are reading or talking with your child:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">habitat protect provide</p>												
<p style="text-align: center;">WORD PLAY</p> <p>Play with sounds, letters, and words to help develop skills that are important for reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play word changer games! Say a two-syllable animal name and ask your child to drop a syllable. <i>Say rabbit without rab. (bit) Say beetle without tle. (bee)</i> • Say a word and ask your child to change the first or last letter-sound. <i>Change the f in fog to d. (dog) Change the g in dog to t. (dot)</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">WORDS TO KNOW</p> <p>Practice reading and spelling these words that children will see a lot in books they read:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>about</td> <td>again</td> <td>ate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>because</td> <td>came</td> <td>gave</td> </tr> <tr> <td>how</td> <td>just</td> <td>one</td> </tr> <tr> <td>pick</td> <td>play</td> <td>them</td> </tr> </table>	about	again	ate	because	came	gave	how	just	one	pick	play	them
about	again	ate											
because	came	gave											
how	just	one											
pick	play	them											
<p style="text-align: center;">LET'S READ TOGETHER</p> <p>Make a special time and place to read with your child every day. Point out how to use the different features in nonfiction books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your child pick a topic from the table of contents or index and find it in the book. • Show how to read diagrams and learn information from them. • Stop when you encounter an unfamiliar word and look it up in the glossary or a dictionary. 	<p style="text-align: center;">RESEARCH WRITING</p> <p>Help your child use different sources to find information about a family pet or a pet that your child would like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check out books about the pet from your local library to read together. • Think of questions about the pet and ask a veterinarian or expert at a local pet store. • Show your child how to find information and answer questions about the pet online. 												