Dear Families:

Today we built three-dimensional shapes out of toothpicks and modeling clay. The children built three-dimensional cubes, tetrahedrons (pyramids with four faces that are all triangles) and a square-based pyramid. They learned how to identify the faces, the vertices and the edges of each shape and talked about and compared the shapes and how they are used.

Learning about shapes builds skills that will help your child with reading, writing and math. Learning about shapes also helps your child understand other signs and symbols.

As your child plays with toys, you can talk about the shapes of the toys. It is helpful for children when adults describe the things around them. This is particularly true when it comes to shapes. One way that young children learn about shapes is by playing with them. Young children are very interested in cause and effect. They will throw, push and squeeze things with various shapes.

You can help your child discover what each shape does by talking about it out loud. For example: Round things roll. Things that are rounded on the edges can rock. It could hurt to bump into something that is pointy.

An understanding of shapes starts while children are young.

Happy shape hunting!