Dear Families:

This week, we are working with and learning how to represent the numbers 1-10. One of our activities was a grab bag game. The children drew random numbers from 1-10 out of their bags and then counted out the number of objects that represented that number.

For example, if a child received a bag containing the number 7, the child’s task was to first identify the number and then count out the number of objects that represented that number and put those objects in the bag. The children then compared the number of objects in their bags. We asked: “Who has the largest amount of objects? Who has the least amount of objects?”

We used vocabulary words such as **more, less, greater than, less than, the most** and **the least** to talk about the number of objects in the children’s bags. By encouraging children to talk about their mathematical processes, we gain insights into their mathematical thinking. Everyone⎯teachers and parents alike⎯benefits when children share their strategies and ideas. We will continue to encourage the children to use these mathematical vocabulary words when engaging in conversations about numbers, amounts and counting.

There are many ways to encourage your child to count at home. One way is to count the coins in a wallet. Ask: “How many copper colored coins are there? Do we have more silver coins or more copper coins? Are there more small silver coins than large silver coins? How many more?” Activities like this can be played in a restaurant while waiting for your meal or in a doctor’s office while waiting for an appointment.

Have fun and happy counting!