Dear Families:

This week, we will be classifying various objects, categorizing these objects and then asking questions about the work that we have done.

We started out by looking at our shoes and sorting them by color, size, style and purpose. We have been using our powers of observation to identify the different attributes that sets of objects possess, as well as the similarities and differences within each set.

After we put our shoes into a pile, we sorted the shoes by color. If a shoe had multiple colors, we asked the children to decide what color group to place it in and tell us why.

In our classifying and sorting work, we’ve been using vocabulary such as: **the same**, **in common**, **different**, **characteristics** and **attributes**. The children will incorporate these words into their vocabulary if the words are used often enough, so we plan on using them a lot in the coming weeks. As your child encounters new mathematical concepts, we will introduce new vocabulary words to support each new concept.

There are many ways to teach your child about sorting and classifying at home. Your child can sort toys, classify foods by meals (breakfast foods, lunch foods and dinner foods), classify different types of play (outdoor games, indoor games, water play and board games) and even classify the types of clothing needed for different seasons and occasions. You can also point out how objects are alike and different as you go about your daily routines. These are important skills for your young mathematician to develop, as these skills help build a solid foundation for more complex mathematical reasoning in the years to come.

Happy sorting!