**NOTE:** This word document contains three parent/guardian letters customized for different age groups. Please choose the version that is most appropriate, edit as needed and then print the letter for the children in your care to take home to their families.

Dear Families of Infants 0-6 Months:

Before young children begin to count the Cheerios on their trays or put blocks in the shape sorter, they are learning important early math concepts from their everyday interactions with caregivers. When caregivers incorporate language about math concepts into these interactions from the start, the roots of math concepts begin to grow and provide a solid foundation for learning math skills in the preschool years.

Today, we talked about **IN** and **OUT** during mealtime. You can reinforce this lesson at home. Show your baby a bowl with food and a spoon. Hold the bowl up and say: “Look, (child’s name), the spoon is **IN** the bowl.” When your baby looks at the spoon and opens his/her mouth, give your baby a spoonful of food and say: “(Name of food) goes **IN** your mouth.” As you remove the spoon from your baby’s mouth, say: “The spoon is **OUT** of your mouth.” During the feeding, show your baby the spoon **IN** the bowl. Say: “Spoon **IN**” as you scoop food onto the spoon. Say: “Spoon **OUT**” after each mouthful as you remove the spoon from your baby’s mouth. Give your baby his/her own spoon to play with and hold during the feeding. Talk about **IN** and **OUT** in reference to your baby’s spoon throughout the meal.

Dear Families of Infants 6-12 Months:

Before young children begin to count the Cheerios on their trays or put blocks in the shape sorter, they are learning important early math concepts from their everyday interactions with caregivers. When caregivers incorporate language about math concepts into these interactions from the start, the roots of math concepts begin to grow and provide a solid foundation for learning math skills in the preschool years.

Today we talked about **IN** and **OUT** during mealtime. You can reinforce this lesson at home. Cheerios or puffs are excellent foods to help young infants learn how to feed themselves and develop greater dexterity with their hands by refining grasp and release.

Place a small bowl containing a few Cheerios on the tray in front of your baby. Point to the Cheerios and say: “Look, (child’s name), there are Cheerios **IN** the bowl.” Allow your baby to play with the Cheerios and talk about whether the Cheerios are **IN** or **OUT** of the bowl or **IN** or **OUT** of your baby’s mouth.

Dear Families of Infants 12-18 Months:

Before young children begin to count the Cheerios on their trays or put blocks in the shape sorter, they are learning important early math concepts from their everyday interactions with caregivers. When caregivers incorporate language about math concepts into these interactions from the start, the roots of math concepts begin to grow and provide a solid foundation for learning math skills in the preschool years.

Today, we talked about **BIG** and **LITTLE** at mealtime. You can reinforce this lesson at home during mealtime. Place a few **BIG** and **LITTLE** crackers on your baby’s tray. Allow your baby to begin finger feeding. Pick up a **BIG** cracker and a **LITTLE** cracker and ask: “(Child’s name), do you want a **BIG** cracker or a **LITTLE** cracker?” Allow your baby to choose. If your baby chooses a **BIG** cracker from the tray, say: “(Child’s name) is eating a **BIG** cracker.” If your baby chooses a **LITTLE** cracker, say: “(Child’s name) is eating a **LITTLE** cracker.” Continue to allow your baby to feed himself/herself, saying “**BIG** cracker or **LITTLE** cracker,” depending on which cracker your baby picks up and eats.