**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 **BIG**-**LITTLE** during outdoor play. You can reinforce this lesson at home. Enjoy a walk outside together as you notice and talk about things that are **BIG** and **LITTLE**. Look where your baby is looking and talk about things that your baby’s eyes are focusing on. Point to objects that your baby is looking at and talk about them in relation to **BIG** and **LITTLE**. For example, point out a **BIG** tree and a **LITTLE** tree or a **BIG** flower or a **LITTLE** flower. Encourage your baby to look from one to the other as you describe the size of each tree or flower. Show your baby two rocks, one **BIG** and one **LITTLE**, or two sticks, one **BIG** and one **LITTLE**, and encourage your baby to look from one to the other and touch and explore them with his/her hands. As your baby looks, touches and explores, name and describe the rocks or sticks as **BIG** or **LITTLE**.

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 **BIG-LITTLE** during outdoor play. You can reinforce this lesson at home. Enjoy a walk outside together as you notice and talk about things that are **BIG** and **LITTLE**. To help your baby begin to understand **BIG** and **LITTLE**, show your baby common objects in the environment two a time. For example, point out a **BIG** tree and a **LITTLE** tree or a **BIG** flower and a **LITTLE** flower. Encourage your baby to look from one to the other as you describe the size of each tree or flower. Show your baby two rocks, one **BIG** and one **LITTLE**, or two sticks, one **BIG** and one **LITTLE**, and allow your baby to hold and explore them with his/her hands. MAKE SURE NONE OF THE OBJECTS PRESENT CHOKING HAZARDS. As your baby looks, touches and explores, name and describe the rocks or sticks as **BIG** or **LITTLE**.

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-LITTLE** during playtime. You can reinforce this lesson at home. Infants at this age love to collect items found in their environment. Together, collect some sticks, rocks and leaves of all different sizes. Place all of the items in a big pile. Allow your baby to play with the objects, putting them in and taking them out of containers or buckets. While your baby is playing with the collection of sticks, rocks and leaves, talk about the size of the objects in relation to each other. Use the words **BIG** and **LITTLE** to describe each item as your baby puts them in and takes them out of the containers or lines them up on the ground. When and if your baby lines the items up on the ground, line some items up yourself in order from **BIGGEST** to **LITTLEST**. Point out the **BIGGEST** item and the **LITTLEST** item to your baby. Continue the game until your baby loses interest. At the end of the game, sort the objects by size with your baby into the buckets, placing the **BIG** items in the **BIG** buckets and the **LITTLE** items in the **LITTLE** buckets to save for another day.