**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 **STOP** and **GO** while we were playing outside. You can reinforce this lesson at home when you are playing outside. As you swing or walk with your baby outdoors, use the words “**STOP**” and “**GO**” to label your baby’s movements. When you begin to push your child on the swing or in the stroller, say: “**GO**!” When you stop, say: “**STOP**!”

You can also incorporate music or rhythm into your play or walks. Feeling rhythm is an important early math skill⎯and music is an excellent way to help infants explore the concept of **STOP** and **GO**. When you start walking, say “**GO**” and begin singing a playful song. Stop throughout the walk for a few moments and say “**STOP**” each time you stop moving. Also stop singing. Then repeat as you start up your stroll again.

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 **STOP** and **GO** while we were playing outside. You can reinforce this lesson at home when you are playing outside. As you swing or stroll outdoors, use the words “**STOP**” and “**GO**” to label your infant’s movements. When you begin to push your baby on the swing or in the stroller, say: “**GO**!” When you stop, say: “**STOP**!”

You can also Incorporate music or rhythm into your play or walks. Feeling rhythm is an important early math skill, and music is an excellent way to help infants explore the concept of **STOP** and **GO**. When you start walking, say “**GO**” and begin singing a playful song. Give your child a toy to shake as you sing and stroll. Stop throughout the walk for a few moments and say “**STOP**” each time you stop moving. Also stop singing. Then repeat as you start up your stroll again.

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 **STOP** and **GO** as we played outside. You can reinforce this lesson at home when you are outdoors playing. When your baby is on the move, cheer your baby on, saying: “**GO**! **GO**! **GO**!” When your child stops, say: “**STOP**!” Then repeat “**GO**!” when your baby starts moving again. Most infants love a cheering audience!

Infants at this age also love to imitate what you do or what older siblings are doing. Get everyone moving with a game like “Freeze Dance,” where your baby follows your lead for stopping and going. When you say “**GO**,” begin singing and dancing. When you say “**STOP**,” model standing still. Then start again. Children will love imitating and laughing as they dance and then freeze.