**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 **UNDER** and **OVER** during playtime. You can reinforce this lesson at home by playing peek-a-boo. When your baby is lying on his/her back and you are sitting facing your baby, cover your face with a washcloth. Then remove the washcloth and say: “Peek-a-boo, (Mommy/Daddy) was **UNDER** the washcloth.”

Next, gently cover your baby’s face with the washcloth. Then remove the washcloth and say: “Peek-a-boo, (child’s name) was **UNDER** the washcloth.” Repeat as long as you and your baby are enjoying the activity.

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 **UNDER** and **OVER** during playtime. You can reinforce this lesson at home by playing a hide-and-seek game with toys. Show your baby an interesting toy. (One that squeaks works well for this activity.) Let your baby play with and explore the toy for a minute. Then hold out your hand and say: “Give me the (name of the toy).” Wait to see if your baby offers you the toy. If not, gently take the toy from your baby, repeating: “Give me the (name of the toy).” While your baby is watching, partially cover the toy with a cloth. Say: “I am putting the cloth **OVER** (name of toy).” Ask your baby: “Where is the (name of toy)? It’s **UNDER** the cloth.” Wait to see if your baby removes the cloth. If not, remove the cloth and say: “(Name of toy) was **UNDER** the cloth.”

Next, while your baby is watching, completely cover the toy with the cloth. Say: “I am putting the cloth **OVER** the (name of toy).” Ask your baby: “Where is the (name of toy)? It’s **UNDER** the cloth.” Wait to see if your baby removes the cloth. If not, squeak the toy and remove the cloth and say: “(Name of the toy) was **UNDER** the cloth.” Allow your baby to play with the toy for a minute. Repeat the game as long as you and your baby are enjoying it.

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 **UNDER** and **OVER** during playtime. You can reinforce this lesson at home by playing a hide-and-seek game with toys. Show your baby an interesting toy. (One that squeaks works well for this activity.) Let your baby play with and explore the toy for a minute. Then hold out your hand and say: “Give me the (name of the toy).” Wait to see if your baby offers you the toy. While your baby is watching, completely cover the toy with the cloth. Say: “I am putting the cloth **OVER** the (name of toy).” Ask: “Where is the (name of toy)? It’s **UNDER** the cloth.” Wait for your baby to remove the cloth. If your baby does not remove the cloth, squeak the toy and wait again for your baby to remove the cloth. Say: “(Name of the toy) is **UNDER** the cloth.” Wait for your baby to remove the cloth. Once your baby removes the cloth, point to the toy and say: “You found the (name of toy). It was **UNDER** the cloth.” Allow your baby to play with the toy for a minute. Repeat the game as long as you and your baby are enjoying it.