

A Letter to Families

Send families a letter introducing the study. Use the letter to communicate with families and as an opportunity to invite their participation in the study.

Dear Families,

We've noticed that children get excited when they see large cardboard boxes. Boxes are full of possibilities! Children are curious about the different types of boxes, how boxes are made, how people use boxes, and how people move very large boxes. We think this study of boxes will be engaging and fun!

We need your help to get our study going. If you can, we'd love your help in gathering boxes to investigate. We'll need many different types of boxes—boxes of all shapes, sizes, and materials. If you have books or pictures related to boxes, we'd love to borrow those, too. Below is a list of suggested items, feel free to send other items that you think may add to our exploration. Please label items with your name so we can return them to you at the end of our study. We promise to take good care of them! Also, please let us know if someone in your family works with boxes (e.g., woodworker, carpenter, origami artist, factory worker, delivery person) and you would like to share your expertise with the class. We would love to arrange a time for you to join us in our investigations.

Objects

Food boxes
Wooden boxes
Plastic boxes
Styrofoam® boxes
Shoebboxes
Music boxes
Round boxes
Appliance boxes
Tissue boxes
File boxes

Boxes with different types of closures
Empty matchboxes
Lunch boxes
Mailboxes
Ice chests
Flower boxes
Cigar boxes
Toolboxes
Tackle boxes
Moving boxes

Hatboxes
Nesting boxes
Bento boxes

Pictures

Boxes on conveyor belts
Container boxes being loaded onto trains or trucks

As we study boxes, we will learn concepts and skills related to literacy, math (especially geometry), science, social studies, the arts, and technology. We'll also develop thinking skills as we observe, investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions, and test our ideas.

What You Can Do at Home

Explore a variety of boxes with your child and talk about each box's characteristics. How big is it? What is it made of? Are there pictures or words on it? What shape does it have? How many sides does it have? Provide empty boxes of different sizes and help your child transform them into different things. Your child's imagination will lead the way! Invent games to play with boxes. Stack them. Take them apart and rebuild them.

While you are out in the community with your child, point out the different boxes you see. Count them and describe them. Look for the biggest box and the smallest box. Hunt for the most interesting box you've ever seen!

At the end of our study, we will have special event to show you what we've learned. Thank you for playing an important role in our learning.