



Mathematics Family Letter, Unit: 8

Dear Family,

Our class is starting a new unit in math about graphing and calendar time. One focus of this unit is on collecting and representing data, sorting data and objects, and using data to solve problems. The other focus is on days of the weeks, months of the year, and the four seasons.

Throughout this unit, students will be working toward these goals;

- naming the days of the week in sequential order
- naming the months of the year in sequential order
- naming the four seasons in sequential order
- naming the day of the week when weekly events occur in class (specials)
- ordering daily events (breakfast, lunch, and bedtime)
- telling time when daily events occur, such as morning, afternoon and night
- posing information questions, collecting data, organizing, and recording results using objects, pictures, and picture graphs

In our math class, students engage in math problems and activities and discuss the underlying concepts. They are asked to share their reasoning and solutions. It is important that children solve math problems accurately in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain his or her math thinking to you.

Related Activities to Try at Home

The activities suggested below are related to the mathematics we are currently studying in school. Doing them with your child can enrich your child's mathematical learning.

Sorting Your child can sort collections of objects you have at home: coins, stamps, toys, containers, even laundry. He or she can sort just for fun or to organize some things in your home. As your child sorts the collection, ask him or her questions about the sorting: “How are some of the bottle caps the same?” “How could you sort them into groups?” “What is the same about all of these?” “Is there a different way you could sort them?”

Surveys In this unit, students conduct their own surveys. Help your child take a survey of your family, friends, or neighbors. Your child can choose a question that is of interest to him or her, create a sheet to record people’s responses, ask people the question, and then record their responses. Afterwards ask your child some questions about the results of the survey. For example, ask: “What did you find out? How many people said they liked the ocean? How many people didn’t? Did more people like the ocean than did not? Were you surprised by people’s responses?”

Counting to Collect Data You can encourage your child to collect data about the number of certain items in your home: How many forks do you have? How many windows? How many chairs? How many feet are there in your home?

Singing You can encourage your child to sing the songs learned at school, such as “The Days of the Week” and “Month of the Year” and “Four Seasons”

Conversations Have simple conversations with your child about what day of the week, what month, and what season it is. Allow your children to talk about when daily events take place (i.e. eating breakfast in the morning, soccer practice in the afternoon and bedtime stories are at night). Remind your child what day PE takes place so they can dress appropriately.

Sincerely,
The Kindergarten Team