

LETTER TO PARENTS

SCIENCE NEWS

Dear Parents,

Our class is beginning a study of fabric. We will be looking at the properties of fabric (its color, texture, absorbency, stiffness), how fabric is put together, how it can be taken apart, how pieces of fabric can be connected, how fabric changes in water, how it gets dirty and clean again, and how to permanently change its color.

We will be focusing on the scientific thinking processes of observing, communicating, and comparing. You can add to your child’s experience by using these processes to investigate fabric at home. For example, look around the house and label all the things you find that are made of fabric. Discuss the properties of fabrics that make them good for a particular use. Compare articles of clothing. Why is one jacket better to wear in winter weather, another in summer, and another in the rain? Set up a laundry station so your child can hand wash and dry a few articles of clothing, dish towels, and so forth.

We need your help to make this module successful. If you have scraps of fabric at home that you are willing to donate to the class, please send them to class as soon as possible. They will be used for fabric collages and various sewing projects. Thanks!



Sincerely, _____

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HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

INVESTIGATION 1: FABRIC ALL AROUND

At school, we have been using our senses to observe the many ways that fabrics differ. We have also looked around to see where fabrics are used. Here are two ways to practice the vocabulary and skills your child is developing.

- Play "I'm thinking of something that is made of fabric and it is" (blue, soft, striped, tough). Take turns describing and identifying fabrics in use around the home.
- Have your child search for four different ways fabric is used around your home or neighborhood. Have him or her draw and label the four uses for fabric.

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

INVESTIGATION 2: FABRIC INTERACTIONS

Materials

- Tall paper cup
- 2 or more colors of yarn (or ribbon, or strips of fabric)
- Scissors
- Piece of tape

How to Weave

1. Cut slits along the sides of the paper cup. Cut an odd number of slits; seven is a good number.
2. Weave the yarn in and out of the slits. As you weave, keep pushing the yarn down to pack the rows tightly. If you use strips of fabric, you can even overlap the rows of fabric as you weave.
3. When finished, tape the loose end to the inside of the cup.

