

LETTER TO FAMILY

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Science News

Dear Family,

Water is a unique earth material, the only material on Earth that occurs naturally in all three states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas. Next to the air we breathe, water is probably the most important thing in our lives. Your child will learn these interesting things and more as we investigate water, its properties, and what it can do in the **FOSS Water and Climate Module**.



One of the goals of this module is to help students focus their observation skills on water—to begin seeing water in a new light. Through their investigations into the properties of water (how it reacts to heating and cooling and the processes of evaporation and condensation), students will begin to appreciate how important this unique material is.

We will also use tools and the Internet to monitor weather conditions in our local area and compare forecasts to actual measurements. We will be introduced to climate and how climate regions are determined around North America and the world.

You can help your child focus on the properties of water and its uses in several ways. Use the Internet to find the source of your local water. Take a trip to the public library and check out books about water, water conservation, and recycling. Plan a visit to a garden shop and find out more about irrigation systems and water drainage in different kinds of soil. Visit a dam, reservoir, lake, or stream to observe the flow and interactions of water with the earth. Consider ways to conserve water in your home and community. Take a walk around the block after a rainstorm, looking for evidence of precipitation, condensation, evaporation, and flowing water. Follow weather conditions in the broadcasts and in newspapers and discuss them with your child.

I will be sending home assignments called Home/School Connections. Please try to complete them with your child that evening and send them back to school the next day. You can get more information on this module by going to www.FOSSweb.com.

We're looking forward to weeks of exciting investigations in the world of water and climate!

Sincerely,