

Sample Family Letter

Dear Families,

Children learn many things from the special blocks in our classroom. The blocks are called Unit Blocks because they are designed to be proportional in size to help children learn math and other skills. Some of the **math** skills they learn are counting, comparison of length and width, names of shapes, and how to combine some geometric shapes to make other shapes. They are even learning the basics of **addition** when they discover that two short blocks will be the same length as the next size block.

Children learn **science** when they experience gravity as their constructions fall, and they learn the use of simple machines such as ramps through their building. They learn **language skills** and vocabulary as they talk about what they are creating and discuss their experiences that they are representing with the blocks. Children develop an understanding of geography as they create maps with the blocks. They acquire an understanding of **sequence**, an important **reading skill**, as they retell their experiences with the blocks. Children learn to **write** as they make signs and, as I help them, write stories about what they are building.

Children learn to **cooperate** and share when they work together with the blocks. They develop **problem-solving skills** and learn good work habits since they are responsible for picking up when they finish.

You can help our exploration by letting your children build things at home. You don't have to own blocks –they can build with Popsicle sticks, milk cartons, or small boxes. It helps if you show an interest in what they build and if you point out new houses or buildings going up in your neighborhood. They need to be given a place to keep the blocks and encouragement to pick up afterwards.

While your children will tell you they are playing, they are actually learning math, science, and literacy using the blocks. Please visit and see for yourself!

Sincerely,

Your child's teacher