

*Dear Family,*

**In my class today** we learned about shadows.

**Did You Know?**

- Shadows appear when an object blocks light. The object must be opaque (not allowing light to pass through). The shadow appears on the side of the object furthest from the light source. Opaque (not clear) objects make dark shadows. Translucent (partially clear) objects make lighter shadows because they do not block the light source completely. Transparent objects do not make shadows because they are clear and light passes through them.
- Shadows created by the Sun are affected by the rotation of the Earth. Early in the day, when the Sun is lowest in the sky, shadows are very long. In the middle of the day, when the Sun is high overhead, shadows are very short. Shadows can seem to “move” throughout the day as the Earth rotates and affects the position of the Sun. Shadows get bigger when the light source is moved closer to the object. Shadows get smaller when the light source is moved further from an object.

**Ask Your Child:**

- Tell me about shadows; what do you know about them?
- Describe where you saw your shadow.
- Explain what your shadow looked like.
- Tell me how your shadow changed.
- Why did your shadow change?
- Explain how shadows are made.

**Activities To Do With Your Child:**

- Go on a shadow hunt with your child inside your home.
- Look for shadows created by objects in your home. When you find the shadows, see if your child can discover what object is making the shadow.
- Is there any way that the shadow can be changed? Can you make the shadow larger or smaller? Can you make the shadow disappear?

**Vocabulary To Use With Your Child:** shadow, long, short, disappear, trace, outline