

*Dear Family,*

**In my class today** we learned about the rainforest habitat and made rain sticks.

### **Did You Know?**

- Rainforests are hot, moist forests with very tall trees and dense vegetation. The climate is warm year-round and there is about the same amount of sunlight every day. Rainforests receive approximately 80 inches of rain per year. As a result, the plants and fungi in the rainforest can grow to startling proportions, with some treetops reaching 270 feet tall. A rainforest is different than a jungle because a jungle has thick undergrowth. The dense vegetation at the top of a rainforest does not allow enough sunlight to reach the ground underneath keeping plants from growing on the rainforest floor.
- Rainforests house about half of all the world's plants and animals yet cover only 2% of the Earth's surface. Rainforests have 170,000 of the world's 250,000 known plant species. The Amazon rainforest in Brazil is the largest rainforest in the world. Some of the animals found in the rainforest are boa constrictors, orangutans, and toucans. Some of the things that come from the rainforest that are part of our everyday lives are chocolate, sugar, cinnamon, rubber, and pineapples.

### **Ask Your Child:**

- What is a habitat?
- Tell me about a rainforest.
- What is a rain stick?
- What do you do with a rain stick?
- How do you make a rain stick?
- Why did you make a rain stick?

### **Activities To Do With Your Child:**

- The environment in the rainforest is very different from where we live. Sometimes it can be wet or humid where we live, but it is like that all the time in the rain forest. The next time you prepare to take a shower, turn on the hot water and close the door. When the bathroom is warm and steamy, show your child and explain that the rainforest feels like that.
- Many delicious fruits and nuts grow in the rainforest. With your child, check your kitchen to see if you have any fruits or nuts from the rainforest (foods that have rainforest fruits or nuts as an ingredient). Look for bananas, pineapple, coconut, star fruit, papaya, cashews, Brazil nuts, chocolate, and coffee.

**Vocabulary To Use With Your Child:** rainforest, jungle, hot, soggy, habitat, tube