

Dear Family,

In my class today we learned about our ears and used our sense of hearing to find matching sounds.

Did You Know?

- The sense of hearing is one of our five senses: sight, smell, touch, taste, and hearing. Our ears help us hear sounds and take in information about our world and what is going on around us. Our brains use the sounds from both of our ears to determine the direction and distance of sounds. The sounds we hear help us decide whether to enjoy an experience.
- The ear consists of three main parts: the outer ear, middle ear, and inner ear. The outer ear collects sounds and delivers the sound waves to the middle ear through the ear drum, which divides the outer ear and the middle ear. The ear drum collects the sound waves, converts them to vibrations, and sends them to the middle ear.
- The middle ear contains the ossicles, three tiny and fragile bones. The bones are known as the hammer, anvil, and stirrup and they are the smallest bones in the body. The eardrum causes the three little bones to vibrate and they carry the vibrations to the inner ear.
- The inner ear contains a curled tube filled with liquid. The vibrations from the ossicles cause the liquid to move. The movement of the liquid causes tiny hairs on the tube to move, sending nerve signals to the brain. The brain interprets this information for us as sounds and language.

Ask Your Child:

- Tell me what you did to find matching sounds.
- Explain the part of your body you use for hearing.
- How do our ears help us learn about our world?

Activities To Do With Your Child:

- You and your child can play a sound game together. Sit together in your home or somewhere outside. Quietly listen to the sounds around you. Try to guess what the sounds are and who or what is making the sound. You might hear people talking, footsteps, a phone ringing, traffic, an airplane, wind, a bird, or even your own breathing or heartbeat.
- Look through a book or magazine. Take turns selecting a picture and making the sound associated with the picture. For instance, find a picture of a dog, then bark and pant, or find a picture of a motorcycle and rev your engine.

Vocabulary To Use With Your Child: ear, hear, sound, vibrate, loud, noise