Dear Family,

In my class today we created a construction site and made structures out of things from the recycling bin.

Did You Know?

- A large percentage of the cardboard used in the United States is recycled. There are two basic types of cardboard manufactured. Stronger cardboard is recycled to make packing boxes. Thinner cardboard is used to make things like cereal boxes. Both types of cardboard are recyclable and can be made using recycled materials.
- Recycled materials can be used in construction. Recycled materials can be used when making sidewalks and playground surfaces. Insulation, drywall, and ceiling tiles in buildings and houses can contain recycled materials. Manufacturers can use recycled materials to make carpeting and carpet backing, floor tiles, and wood flooring.

Ask Your Child:

- What did you build at school?

- What did you use to make your structure?

- Did your structure stay balanced or did it fall over?

- How tall was your structure?

Activities To Do With Your Child:

- You and your child can create your own construction site at home. Some ideas for materials to use:

  - tissue boxes
  - cereal boxes
  - shoe boxes
  - paper towel rolls
  - paper grocery bags
  - plastic milk jugs
  - plastic water bottles
  - plastic yogurt cups
  - newspapers
  - cardboard orange juice containers
  - scissors, tape, yarn, and crayons

- Begin by sitting with your child and looking at the different containers that you have. What do they make you think of? Maybe you picture a castle or a fort, maybe a rocket or a spaceship. Spend a few minutes drawing a picture together of what you plan to make. You can use the containers just the way they are, or you can change them. You could make bricks by filling paper grocery bags with crumpled up newspaper, folding the bags, and taping them closed. You can also roll a few pieces of newspaper into a tube shape, tape it, and use it as a support pole.

- When you are done, let your child draw a picture of what you built together. Send it to school so that your child can share it with us.

Vocabulary Words To Use With Your Child: support, balance, lean, base, connect, collapse