

Dear Family,

In my class today, we explored bicycles as a form of transportation and the gears that make them work.

Did You Know?

- Gears are simple machines.
- A gear is a wheel with teeth. For gears to work, at least two are needed. Two or more gears connected together make up a gear train.
- Gears come in many sizes and help make moving objects easier.
- Gears are found in machines and in many things we use every day such as clocks, amusement park rides, and bicycles.

Ask Your Child:

- Tell me what you learned about how bicycles move.
- Can you tell me what a gear is and what you learned about them?
- Can you tell me what other things have gears? (egg beaters, clocks, . . .)
- How is a bicycle different from an airplane? A rocket ship? How are bicycles different from other forms of transportation that you have learned about?

Activities To Do With Your Child:

- Look around your home for items with gears (e.g., rotary egg beater, clock, manual can opener, manual pencil sharpener, wind-up toys, or electric drill). Have your child draw a picture of that item, label it for them, and send it to school to share with us.

Vocabulary To Use With Your Child:

- **gear** – a part of a machine that causes another part to move because of teeth that connect the two moving parts.
- **crank** – a device, sometimes with a handle, that moves things in a circle.
- **rotary** – turning or able to turn on an axis.
- **bicycle** – a light vehicle with two wheels, one behind the other. You make the wheels turn by pushing on pedals.
- **simple machine** – a device that functions in a basic manner to any machine such as a lever, pulley, wedge, screw, or inclined plane.
- **transportation** – the act of moving things or people from one place to another.