

*Dear Family,*

**In my class today** I explored how some animals use camouflage in the winter.

**Did You Know?**

- Winter is the coldest season of the year. Some animals grow new, thicker fur to help keep out the harsh wind and cold. On some animals this new fur is white to help them hide in the snow. Through this change, the animal is becoming camouflaged to blend in with their surroundings. Camouflage is how an animal blends into its environment, hiding from a predator or prey.
- Some animals, such as the arctic fox and the snowshoe hare, change between brown and white as the seasons change in order to be concealed against their surroundings. Patterns also help protect animals. For instance, a fawn has spots that help it hide from predators. Color can also provide a warning. A skunk has a white stripe down its back that announces the presence of an especially good defense system.

**Ask Your Child:**

- What did you use for your exploration?
- Tell me why the brown rabbits were easier to find.
- Explain how some animals change to blend into their environment.

**Activities To Do With Your Child:**

- Go outside and look for birds and animals around your neighborhood. Discuss how the color of the animals or birds helps them to blend in with their environment or makes them easier to see. When you return home, have your child draw a picture of one of the animals and send it to school to share.
- Make snow paintings with the children. Have the children draw a snowshoe hare or an arctic fox with white crayons on a sheet of light blue construction paper. Mix white paint with salt and let the children use it to paint snow on their pictures. When the paint dries, it will look like snow crystals.

**Vocabulary To Use With Your Child:** camouflage, fox, snowshoe hare, environment, blend, winter