

*Dear Family,*

**In my class today,** I made fingerprints and examined the patterns in them.

**Did You Know?**

- Fingerprints are unique. Our fingerprints have patterns that are very complex. Typical fingerprint patterns include loops, arches, and whorls from the ridges in our skin. Even though our fingerprints all have patterns, they are different from the fingerprints of anyone else in the world.
- A fingerprint is an impression left by the ridges on the surface of our fingers. These impressions can be left behind when they come into contact with a surface that will take a print like a mirror or doorknob. Residue left on the skin such as perspiration, grease, blood, paint, oil, or ink can leave a print behind. Because fingerprints are so unique, they are widely used as a form of identification.

**Ask Your Child:**

- What did you use to make your fingerprints?
- Explain what your fingerprint looks like.
- Tell me something that is the same about the prints of your fingers. What is different?

**Activities To Do With Your Child:**

- Have your child press their fingers onto an ink pad, then onto white paper. Give your child a magnifying glass to examine the loops, whorls, and other intricacies of their own personal fingerprints. Compare their fingerprints to other members of the family. Discuss how unique the fingerprints are.
- Invite your child to make fingerprint pictures. Use their fingerprint to create the heads or bodies for animal drawings to which they can add ears, legs, and other details with markers or crayons.

**Vocabulary To Use With Your Child:**

- **fingerprint** – a mark made by the tip of a finger on an object that it has touched.
- **examine** – to look at in a close, thorough way.
- **loop** – the rounded shape made when something curves back and crosses itself.
- **arch** – a rounded structure over an open space.
- **whorl** – a circular arrangement around a center, or a coiled shape.
- **ridge** – a long, narrow, raised section at the top of something.