

Dear Family: in class today, we learned about different types of animal coverings.

Did you know?

- Animal skins have colors and patterns. Their skins help them blend in with nature. This is called “camouflage.”
- Most mammals have fur or hair. This keeps them warm and safe from the Sun’s rays.
- Birds have feathers instead of fur. Feathers are light so birds can fly.
- Reptiles have tough skin. Their skin has waterproof scales to keep the reptiles safe

Ask your child:

- What kinds of skin coverings do animals have?
- Can you name some animals with fur? Feathers? Scales?
- Can you name some animals that have a pattern on their fur?

Vocabulary:

- animal – a living thing. An animal is not a plant.
- skin – the thin outer covering of the body.
- fur – soft, thick hair. Animal fur covers some animal bodies. Bears and rabbits have fur.
- feather – one of the soft and light parts of a bird. Feathers grow from the skin and cover the body.
- scale – a small, hard, thin plate that covers fish. Reptiles and some other animals have scales.
- covering – something that covers or hides.

Activity:

Help your child look through their toy collection. Gather the toy animals in a pile. Sort the animals into groups. Put animals with fur into one pile. Place the animals with feathers into a second pile. Place the animals with scales into a third pile. Talk about how the groups of animals are different. Talk about how they are the same. Have your child choose a favorite toy animal to bring to school to share with us.