

*Dear Family,*

**In my class today** we talked about Firefighters and we did an experiment with water and pressure.

**Did You Know?**

- Firefighters are important community helpers who work very hard to keep people and communities safe. Firefighters extinguish (put out) fires, rescue people from fires, and try to prevent fires. Fighting fires is a dangerous and exhausting job. When firefighters are not out fighting fires, they make sure that their equipment is clean and working. They also practice how to fight fires. Firefighters wear special clothing to protect themselves from the fire, heat, and smoke.
- Pressure controls water flow. Water flow is slower when there is less pressure and water flow is faster and when there is more pressure. Pressure can be controlled in many ways. Firefighters use a pumper truck to increase the pressure on the water that comes from a fire hydrant. The extra pressure provided by the pumper truck pushes the water through the fire hose with more force, making the water flow quicker and further.

**Ask Your Child:**

- Tell me about firefighters. What do they do?
- How do firefighters help to keep us and our community safe?
- What did you do with water today?
- What did you put the water in?
- What did you do to make the water flow fast? Flow slow?

**Activities To Do With Your Child:**

- Bath time is a wonderful time to learn about the properties of water. Give your child plastic measuring cups, plastic funnels, a plastic pitcher, and/or plastic colander to play with during their bath. Join your child as he/she fills and empties the different containers with water. Talk with your child about the how the water flows out of the containers differently. Make predictions (guesses) about what might happen.
- Visit a fire station and see if you can meet one of the firefighters. Maybe they have time to show you around. Can they show you some of the special clothing they wear and equipment they use? Ask about the pumper truck and how it is different from the other fire trucks.
- Walk around your neighborhood and look for fire hydrants. What color are they? Talk about what hydrants are used for. Count them with your child. When you get home, sit together and draw a picture of what you saw. Write down how many hydrants you counted and send it to school to share.

**Vocabulary To Use With Your Child:** firefighter, water, flow, pressure, slow, quick