

Dear Family: in class today, we investigated fireflies and why they glow in the dark.

#### Did you know?

- Fireflies are insects. They are also called lightning bugs.
- Fireflies have bodies that glow. Even firefly eggs glow!
- Fireflies are beetles. They are not flies or bugs.

#### Ask your child:

- Explain how you know a firefly is an insect.
- Tell me what makes a firefly different from other insects.
- How did you make your firefly?

#### Vocabulary:

- arthropod – a large group of animals. Arthropods have hard shells on their bodies.
- insect – a small animal. It has a hard covering over its body. Insects have three-part bodies. They have three pairs of legs.
- thorax – the middle part of an insect's body.
- firefly – an insect with a light. The light flashes in the lower body at night.
- beetle – an insect. Beetles have a pair of hard front wings. The hard wings cover a pair of thin wings.
- glow – to shine with a bright light.

#### Activity:

Go outside with your child on a summer night, and catch fireflies in a jar. Watch how they glow and blink their lights. Help your child count the number of times a firefly blinks its light. Write the number on a piece of paper, and send it to school with your child. Set the fireflies free when you are finished observing them.