

Dear Family: in class today, we explored ladybugs and made ladybug thumbprint pictures.

#### Did you know?

- Ladybugs are a little bit like butterflies. They change as they grow.
- Both ladybugs and butterflies come from eggs.
- They both look different from the time they hatch until they are adults.
- Ladybugs are helpful in the garden.

#### Ask your child:

- Explain how you know that a ladybug is an insect.
- Tell me how ladybugs are like butterflies.
- Describe how ladybugs are helpful.

#### Vocabulary:

- ladybug – a small, round beetle. Ladybugs are red or orange. They usually have black spots.
- life cycle – changes that a living thing goes through as it grows.
- metamorphosis – complete change of some living things. Some living things change as they grow.
- larva – an insect after it hatches from an egg. A larva has not changed into its adult form.
- pupa – the middle stage of an insect's development. The pupa stage comes after the larva stage.
- aphid – a small insect. Aphids eat by sucking the juices of plants.

#### Activity:

When the weather is warm, go outside and look for ladybugs. Have your child tell you all the places that they find ladybugs. Make a list, and send it to school with your child.