

Dear Family,

In my class today we learned about our noses and our sense of smell.

Did You Know?

- The sense of smell is one of our five senses: sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. We do not actually smell with our noses; our noses act like a cave for collecting smells. We have a special nerve for smelling that is found in the nasal cavity, called the olfactory nerve. It contains tiny receptors that collect the smells of things. We each have about 10 million receptors in our nose. The receptors send messages to the brain about what we smell. The brain interprets the information and identifies the smell, therefore we actually smell with our brains!
- Our noses are incredibly sensitive. In fact, of all our senses, smell is the most sensitive. There are an unlimited number of different smells in the world. Most of the time we are not even aware that we are smelling anything at all. We can recognize many smells, and each of us has our own favorite smell. One of the most recognized smells from childhood is the smell of crayons. Just like fingerprints, every person has a smell that is unique to that individual.

Ask Your Child:

- Tell me what you learned about your nose.
- Describe the kinds of things you smelled.
- Tell me the things that smelled good to you.
- Tell me the smells that you did not like.

Activities To Do With Your Child:

- Explore different smells with your child using things in your house with a variety of odors. There are many foods and spices in your kitchen with different smells. A variety of products in your bathroom (please do not use household cleaning products) such as soap, toothpaste, and shampoo have unique smells.
- Many arts and crafts materials have unique smells (crayons, markers, watercolors). If you have access to these, help your child use them to draw a picture of something you smelled from your home, such as foods or shampoo. Compare and contrast the smells of the crayons or markers to the actual smell of the item your child drew. Send the picture to school with your child to share with us.

Vocabulary To Use With Your Child: nose, nostril, smell, scent, fragrance, sniff