

Dear Family,

In my class today, we learned how the Sun creates shadows and about how shadows change.

Did You Know?

- An object that can block light will create a shadow.
- Light cannot pass through solid things, so a dark area appears where the sunlight is blocked.
- The patch where the light cannot reach is called a “shadow.”
- The length of shadows change over the course of the day. Longer shadows are found early in the morning and late in the afternoon. The shortest shadow is at noon, when the Sun is directly overhead.
- Because the Earth is moving, the Sun is always changing its position in the sky, creating the change in shadows throughout the day.

Ask Your Child:

- How did you make a shadow?
- Explain how the shadow changed.
- Tell me what you need to make a shadow.

Activities To Do With Your Child:

- Help your child to create a shadow using a small object of their choice and a flashlight. Give your child paper and a pencil to draw the shadow on the paper. Send the shadow tracing to school to share with us.

Vocabulary To Use With Your Child:

- **Sun** – the star that is nearest to the Earth; the Earth receives heat and light from the Sun and travels around it.
- **light** – the form of energy that makes it possible for the eye to see. The Sun produces light.
- **shadow** – the dark image on a surface caused by something that blocks light from the Sun.
- **change** – to become different.
- **sundial** – a device that stands in a garden or on a lawn to show the time of day. A sundial has a flat, round disk with numbers and a pointer that casts a shadow. As the shadow moves across the numbers, the sundial shows what time it is.
- **gnomon** – the column on a sundial that casts a shadow and thus indicates the time of day.