

Dear Family: In class today, we made tree cookies.

Did you know?

- A tree cookie shows the inside of a tree.
- Tree cookies have rings. The rings tell how old the tree was.
- One tree ring is equal to 1 year of the tree's life.

Ask your child:

- What did you use to make your tree cookie?
- Tell me what the heart is for.
- What do the rings on your tree cookie mean?

Vocabulary:

- tree cookie – a cut of a tree trunk. It shows the layers of a tree.
- bark – the outside covering of a tree.
- cambium – a thin layer between the bark and wood of a tree.
- heartwood – the center part of a tree.
- ring – a layer of wood made by a tree in a single year.
- age – how old something is.

Activity:

Take your child for a walk outside. Look for trees. Find a tree that has some animals or birds in it. Discuss the size of the tree, its branches, and its leaves. Feel and discuss the bark on the tree. Talk about why the animals might be in the tree. When you return home, have your child draw a picture of the tree. Help your child to label the bark and the animals in the tree. Send the picture to school to share with us.