**NOTE:** This word document contains three parent/guardian letters customized for different age groups. Please choose the version that is most appropriate, edit as needed and then print the letter for the children in your care to take home to their families.

Dear Families of Infants 0-6 Months:

Before young children begin to count the Cheerios on their trays or put blocks in the shape sorter, they are learning important early math concepts from their everyday interactions with caregivers. When caregivers incorporate language about math concepts into these interactions from the start, the roots of math concepts begin to grow and provide a solid foundation for learning math skills in the preschool years.

Today, we talked about **OPEN** and **CLOSE** during drop-off and pickup time. You can reinforce this lesson by emphasizing the words **OPEN** and **CLOSE** during your trip home tonight and on your way to child care in the morning or during any trips in the car. As you **OPEN** the car door, say: “Mommy/Daddy is **OPENING** the door.” As you buckle your baby into the car seat, say: “(Child’s name) seat belt buckle is **CLOSED**.” Once you arrive at your destination, as you unbuckle your child’s seat belt, say: “(Child’s name) seat belt buckle is **OPEN**.” As you **CLOSE** the car door, say: “Mommy/Daddy is **CLOSING** the door.” As you **OPEN** the door to the house, say: “Mommy/Daddy is **OPENING** the door.” Once you are inside the house, as you **CLOSE** the door, say: “Mommy/Daddy is **CLOSING** the door.”

Dear Families of Infants 6-12 Months:

Before young children begin to count the Cheerios on their trays or put blocks in the shape sorter, they are learning important early math concepts from their everyday interactions with caregivers. When caregivers incorporate language about math concepts into these interactions from the start, the roots of math concepts begin to grow and provide a solid foundation for learning math skills in the preschool years.

Today, we talked about **OPEN** and **CLOSE** during drop-off and pickup time. You can reinforce this lesson by emphasizing the words **OPEN** and **CLOSE** during your trip home tonight and on your way to child care in the morning or during any trips in the car. As you **OPEN** the car door, say: “Mommy/Daddy is **OPENING** the door.” As you buckle your baby into the car seat, say: “(Child’s name) seat belt buckle is **CLOSED**.” Once you arrive at your destination, as you unbuckle your child’s seat belt, say: “(Child’s name) seat belt buckle is **OPEN**.” As you **CLOSE** the car door, say “Mommy/Daddy is **CLOSING** the door.” As you **OPEN** the door to the house, say: “Mommy/Daddy is **OPENING** the door.” Once you are inside the house, as you **CLOSE** the door, say: “Mommy/Daddy is **CLOSING** the door.”

Dear Families of Infants 12-18 Months:

Before young children begin to count the Cheerios on their trays or put blocks in the shape sorter, they are learning important early math concepts from their everyday interactions with caregivers. When caregivers incorporate language about math concepts into these interactions from the start, the roots of math concepts begin to grow and provide a solid foundation for learning math skills in the preschool years.

Today, we talked about **OPEN** and **CLOSE** during drop-off and pickup time. You can reinforce this lesson by emphasizing the words **OPEN** and **CLOSE** during your trip home tonight and on your way to child care in the morning or during any trips in the car. As you **OPEN** the car door, say: “Mommy/Daddy is **OPENING** the door.” As you buckle your baby into the car seat, say: “(Child’s name) seat belt buckle is **CLOSED**.” Once you arrive at your destination, as you unbuckle your child’s seat belt, say: “(Child’s name) seat belt buckle is **OPEN**.” As you **CLOSE** the car door, say: “Mommy/Daddy is **CLOSING** the door.” As you **OPEN** the door to the house, say: “Mommy/Daddy is **OPENING** the door.” Once you are inside the house, as you **CLOSE** the door, say: “Mommy/Daddy is **CLOSING** the door.”