Dear Families:

Today, we worked on adding and subtracting from a set of 10. We read the book *Mouse Count*, and counted the mice that were captured by a snake and put into a jar. We then practiced subtracting the mice that escaped from the jar.

Addition and subtraction using numbers up to 10 lays the foundation for adding and subtracting larger numbers as your child gets older. We reinforce this concept by having the children build up numbers (constructing). For example, your child can add mice to the jar until there are 10 and then break apart numbers (deconstructing) by taking mice away until there are none left in the jar.

There are many ways to reinforce today’s lesson at home. Begin by constructing and deconstructing sets of 10. Present problem-solving scenarios that your child can solve.

For example, you can say: “We have four eggs, two sticks of butter, two cups of milk and two cinnamon sticks. How many ingredients do we have to make our cake?” Lay all of the ingredients out on a table, so that your child has a concrete visual of all of the items in the set. Then take away an ingredient or two and ask your child how many ingredients you have left.

Happy adding and subtracting!