Dear Families:

Today we introduced the concept of growing patterns. Patterns are the cornerstone of algebraic thinking. There are two types of patterns: repeating and growing.

We have been doing a lot of work with patterns lately. Today, we looked at a growing pattern that started with a small number and increased by one. We read the counting book, *One Duck Stuck*, and followed the story of a duck stuck in the mud and the friends that came, in increasing order, to try to get the duck unstuck. We charted the number of friends that came to help the duck, so that the children could see the increase in number. When we were finished, their patterns looked like triangles or sets of stairs.

A plus-one growing pattern is easy for young children to recognize and extend because it is the structure of our number system. It is also a precursor to learning simple addition.

There are many good counting books⎯including Donald Crew’s *Ten Black Dots* and Eric Carles’ *Rooster’s Off to See the World*⎯that emphasize the concept of growing patterns. Try reading one with your child at home.

Happy reading!