**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 **SAME**-**DIFFERENT** during our walk outside. You can reinforce this lesson at home. Young infants understand **SAME** and **DIFFERENT** though routines. The routine of getting ready to go outside and take a walk, putting on a jacket, going out the door and being placed in and buckled into a stroller teaches your baby the concept of **SAME**. To help your baby begin to understand **SAME** and **DIFFERENT**, show your baby common objects in the environment two a time.

For **SAME**, show your baby two rocks or two sticks and encourage your baby to look from one to the other. Tap the objects together and say: “**SAME**, these are both sticks.” For **DIFFERENT**, show your baby a rock and a stick. Name the items and encourage your baby to look from one to the other while you name each object and say: “**DIFFERENT**, one is a rock and one is a stick.”

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 **SAME**-**DIFFERENT** during playtime. You can reinforce this lesson during a walk outside. Young infants understand **SAME** and **DIFFERENT** though routines. The routine of getting ready to go outside and take a walk, putting on a jacket, going out the door or being placed in and buckled into a stroller teaches your baby the concept of **SAME**.

To help your baby begin to understand **SAME** and **DIFFERENT**, show your baby common objects in the environment two a time. For **SAME**, offer your baby two rocks or two sticks and encourage your baby to reach for and explore them. MAKE SURE ALL OBJECTS ARE LARGE AND DO NOT PRESENT A CHOKING HAZARD. Tap the objects together and say “**SAME**, these are both sticks.” For **DIFFERENT**, offer your baby a rock and a stick. Name the items and encourage your baby to reach for and explore one of the objects. Say: “**DIFFERENT**, (child’s name) has a rock and Mommy/Daddy has a stick.”

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 **SAME**-**DIFFERENT** during outdoor play. You can reinforce this lesson at home. Infants at this age love to collect items found in their environment.

Together, collect some sticks, rocks and leaves. Place all of the items in a big pile. Allow your baby to play with the objects, putting them in and taking them out of the containers.

When the objects in the container are the **SAME**, point to the objects and say: “These are all rocks. They are the **SAME**. When the objects in the container are **DIFFERENT**, point to the objects and say: “(Child’s name) put rocks, leaves and sticks in. They are **DIFFERENT**.” Continue the game until your baby loses interest. At the end of the game, sort the objects with your baby into the three containers and save them for another day.