Dear Families:

This week, we continue to work on counting. With the information that we have gathered from our counting, we have been graphing our collected data. Please stop by and take a look at our graphs.

We will provide many opportunities for the children to tackle simple problems about data. These problems will be taken from a variety of familiar contexts. Today, we graphed plastic modes of transportation that we “scooped” from a bucket. Counting and sorting toys in our classroom gives the children an opportunity to collect and organize data that is familiar to them. Using vocabulary such as **more**, **fewer** and **equal** enables the children to interpret the collected data and expand their mathematical thinking.

You can easily reinforce these skills at home or on the go. When you are emptying the dishwasher, have your child sort the knives, spoons, forks and other utensils into piles on a kitchen counter or table. Once the basket is emptied, count the utensils in each grouping. Ask your child questions such as: “How many forks? How many more spoons are there than forks?” You can even try to categorize some of the other utensils. Ask: “Where would the large fork shaped like a spoon go?” It’s a great way to strengthen your child’s math skills while getting some help in the kitchen.

Happy sorting!