**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 **BIG**-**LITTLE** during playtime. You can reinforce this lesson at home. Tummy time is especially important for the development of motor skills, especially since the launch of the “back to sleep” campaign. Infants need entertainment during tummy time. Place your baby on the floor on his/her tummy. Show your baby the **BIG** ball. Say: “**BIG** ball.” Roll the **BIG** ball slowly away from your baby and point to it rolling away. Say: “The **BIG** ball is rolling away. Be sure to capture your baby’s attention, so that your baby can track the **BIG** ball with his/her eyes as it moves away.

Show your baby the **LITTLE** ball. Say: “**LITTLE** ball.” Roll the **LITTLE** ball slowly away from your baby and point to it rolling away. Say: “The **LITTLE** ball is rolling away. Be sure to capture your baby’s attention, so that your baby can track the **LITTLE** ball with his/her eyes as it moves away. Continue the game, alternating between the **BIG** ball and the **LITTLE** ball, for as long as your baby remains engaged in the activity.

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 **BIG**-**LITTLE** during playtime. You can reinforce this lesson at home. Sit across from your baby on the floor. Provide support for your baby to sit if your baby needs it. Show your baby the **BIG** ball. Say: “**BIG** ball.” Roll the **BIG** ball to your baby and point to it rolling towards him/her. Say: “The **BIG** ball is rolling to (child’s name). Encourage your baby to reach for and grasp the ball. Balls are easier for infants to grasp at this age if you let a little air out. Beach balls work well for this activity. Once your baby has the ball, say: “Roll the **BIG** ball to (Mommy/Daddy). You may need to help your baby release the **BIG** ball and push it towards you.

Show your baby the **LITTLE** ball. Say: “**LITTLE** ball.” Roll the **LITTLE** ball to your baby and point to it rolling towards him/her. Say: “The **LITTLE** ball is rolling to (child’s name). Encourage your baby to reach for and grasp the ball. Once your baby has the ball, say: “Roll the **LITTLE** ball to (Mommy/Daddy). You may need to help your baby release the **LITTLE** ball and push it towards you. Continue the game, alternating between the **BIG** ball and the **LITTLE** ball, for as long as your baby remains engaged in the activity.

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 **BIG**-**LITTLE** during playtime. You can reinforce this lesson at home. Sit across from your baby on the floor. Provide support for your baby to sit if your baby needs it. Show your baby the **BIG** ball. Say: “**BIG** ball.” Roll the **BIG** ball to your baby and point to it rolling towards him/her. Say: “The **BIG** ball is rolling to (child’s name). Encourage your baby to reach for and grasp the ball. Balls are easier for infants to grasp at this age if you let a little air out. Beach balls work well for this activity. Once your baby has the ball, say: “Roll the **BIG** ball to (your name).

Show your baby the **LITTLE** ball. Say: “**LITTLE** ball.” Roll the **LITTLE** ball to your baby and point to it rolling towards him/her. Say: “The **LITTLE** ball is rolling to (child’s name). Encourage your baby to reach for and grasp the ball. Once your baby has the ball, say: “Roll the **LITTLE** ball to (your name). Continue the game, alternating between the **BIG** ball and the **LITTLE** ball, for as long as your baby remains engaged in the activity. You can turn this game into a family game, with everyone sitting in a circle and rolling balls to one another. Be sure to talk about who has the ball and make requests for family members to roll the ball and describe which ball is in play: the **BIG** ball or the **LITTLE** ball.