**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 **IN** and **OUT** as we read books. You can reinforce this lesson by emphasizing the words **IN** and **OUT** as you read together at home. Sit down with your baby in your lap. Pull out a bin of books with pictures and photos that interest young infants. As you take a book out of the bin, say: “Mommy/Daddy takes the book **OUT** of the bin.” When you put the book back in the bin, say: “Mommy/Daddy puts the book **IN** the bin.”

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 **IN** and **OUT** while we were playing on the floor together. You can reinforce this lesson at home when you are on the floor playing blocks. Sit with your baby in your lap and help your baby take blocks **OUT** of a bin. As your baby takes a block **OUT**, say: “(Child’s name), take the block **OUT**!” Or just “Block **OUT**!” Encourage your baby to take lots of blocks **OUT** of the bin. Clap and celebrate each block that your baby takes **OUT**.

Build together with the blocks, counting blocks as you play. After you have had fun building and knocking down the blocks together, put the blocks **IN** the bin together. Show your child how to put a block **IN** the bin as you say: “Put **IN**” each time. Then encourage the infant to put blocks **IN**, saying: “(Child’s name) puts the block **IN**” each time. Remember to clap, high-five or celebrate each time your baby drops a block **IN** the bin. Some infants may just enjoy dumping the blocks out and putting the blocks back **IN** over and over. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to hear you say “**IN**” and “**OUT**” many times during this play interaction.

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 **IN** and **OUT** as we played together on the floor. You can reinforce this lesson at home when you are playing with toys like blocks. Sit down on the floor with your baby and a basket of blocks and help your child learn **IN** and **OUT**. Ask your baby to take the blocks **OUT** of the bin. As your baby takes a block **OUT**, say: “(Child’s name), take the block **OUT**!” Or just “Block **OUT**!” Encourage your child to take lots of blocks **OUT** of the bin. Clap and celebrate each block that your baby takes **OUT**. Infants at this age may enjoy dumping the whole bin **OUT** at one time. Enjoy the fun crashing sound that the dumping makes as you say: “Blocks **OUT**! (Child’s name) dumped all of the blocks **OUT**!”

Build together with the blocks. Take turns putting blocks on and counting each block as you build higher and higher. After you have had fun building and knocking down the blocks together, put the blocks **IN** the bin together. Show your child how to put a block **IN** the bin as you say: “Put **IN**” each time. Then encourage your baby to put blocks **IN**, saying: “(Child’s name) puts the block **IN**” each time. Remember to clap, high-five or celebrate each time your baby drops a block **IN** the bin. Some infants may just enjoy dumping the blocks **OUT** and putting the blocks back **IN** over and over. This is a wonderful opportunity for your baby to hear you say “**IN**” and “**OUT**” many times during this play interaction.