**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 playtime. You can reinforce this lesson at home. Place your baby on his/her tummy on the floor to play. To help your baby begin to understand **SAME** and **DIFFERENT**, show your baby a variety of blocks and balls. For **SAME**, show your baby two blocks or two balls and encourage your baby to look from one to the other. Tap the objects together and say: “**SAME**, these are both blocks.”

For **DIFFERENT**, show your baby a block and a ball. Name the items and encourage your baby to look from one to the other while naming each object and saying: “**DIFFERENT**, one is a block and one is a ball.” Encourage your baby to reach for and grasp the toys. If your baby reaches for and grasps the block, offer your baby a second block and say: “**SAME**, you have two blocks.” Then show the infant the ball and say: “**DIFFERENT**, (child’s name) has a block(s) and (Mommy/Daddy) has a ball.”

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 at home. Place your baby on the floor in a sitting position while you sit opposite your baby. To help your baby begin to understand **SAME** and **DIFFERENT**, show your baby a variety of blocks and balls. For **SAME**, offer your baby two blocks or two balls and encourage your baby to reach for and explore them. Tap the blocks together and say: “**SAME**, these are both blocks.”

For **DIFFERENT,** show your baby a block and a ball. Name the items and encourage your baby to reach for and explore one of the objects. Say: “**DIFFERENT**, (child’s name) has a block and (your name) has a ball.” Model banging two blocks together at midline and encourage your baby to bang two blocks together. Say: “**SAME**, (child’s name) is banging two blocks.” Model banging a block and a ball together at midline and encourage your baby to bang a block and a ball together. Say: “**DIFFERENT**, (child’s name) is banging a block and a ball together.”

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 playtime. You can reinforce this lesson at home. Infants at this age love to collect items found in their environment. Together, collect some blocks, balls and other small toys. 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 containers.

When the objects in the container are the **SAME**, point to the objects and say: “These are all blocks. They are the **SAME**.” When the objects in the container are **DIFFERENT**, point to the objects and say: “(Child’s name) put blocks and balls in, they are **DIFFERENT**.” Continue the game until your baby loses interest. At the end of the game, sort the objects with your baby, putting the toys away in their proper place.