

September 20, 2008

Dear Parents,

This year our class will be doing child investigations called projects! Projects are investigations of high-interest topics that typically have 3 phases. In Phase 1, the children represent their individual prior experiences with the topic through drawing, storytelling, and dramatic play. At the end of Phase 1, the children and I will make a list of all the things they want to find out about the topic. During the second phase, the children will do research to find the answers to their questions. They will likely use many methods to do this research. For example, they might use informational books, interview experts on the topic, and do observational drawings to learn more about the topic under investigation. Finally, in the third phase, the children will summarize their findings with a culminating event.

Some of these project investigations may last a few days, and some of them may last as long as a few months! Either way, be assured that this is an effective way to provide your child with opportunities for using and developing knowledge, skills, and abilities.

I welcome your participation in these projects! You can contribute materials, ideas, expertise, or time. Please watch in our newsletter for lists of materials we need to complete a project, and don't hesitate to offer suggestions. On some occasions, your child will have project "homework" and will need your assistance. For example, if we study flashlights, we might ask each child to develop a list of all the things at his or her house that use batteries.

I look forward to doing many interesting project investigations with your children this year. As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Project Teacher