

Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our next unit of study, “Transforming Matter.”

As with the previous units, I am providing suggested activities you and your child can do together at home to build on the work we’re doing in class.

In this unit, we will learn what the world around us is made of and how objects can change from one state to another. We will be reading a variety of genres, including informational texts, narrative nonfiction, and a biography.

This unit will help your child better understand how solids, liquids, and gases can change when they are exposed to different environments and temperatures.

Once again, please don’t hesitate to contact me should you have any questions about our reading program or about your child’s progress.

Transforming Matter

In this unit, we read about how matter is all around us. We will do this by thinking in depth about the question “Why do we measure and describe the world?” Here are some activities you can do at home to continue the conversation we started at school about transforming matter.

Topic Connection

Let's Go for a Ride!

After learning how hot air balloons work, have your child create a fun poster ad for a balloon ride. Here's the catch: have your child try to incorporate **four** scientific facts about how hot air balloons use various forms of matter. Feel free to let your child add original artwork, Internet photos, or relevant magazine cut-outs.

Vocabulary Connection

Vocabulary Charades

In school, your child is learning new words related to the impact of science and matter. To help your child focus on these words fully, play a game of charades and act out as many of these Unit 10 words as possible: **microscopic, compressed, investigate, evaporation, absorb, and inflate**. As you guess the words, you may look at a list of the possible vocabulary to serve as “multiple choice” answers. Cross off each word as you guess it.

Comprehension Connection

A “Matter” of Time

Select a biographical text about a scientist who studies biochemistry. Create a time line, marking the year the person was born until the year of the person's death. Using the biography, fill in at least **eight** important years of the person's life. For each year, write down one major fact or life event. How do these dates specifically connect to biochemistry and transforming matter?

Word Study Connections

Explore Properties

For our final unit, help your child focus on the use of the word **properties** as it relates to the unit topic of transforming matter. Have your child label three separate sheets of blank paper with the following headers: Sharpening a Pencil; Making a Bed; Crushing a Can. On each blank piece of paper, ask your child to list different examples of how an object's **properties** change when the specific action is performed. For added creativity, have your child draw the object as its properties change. Their drawings should indicate an overall understanding of how matter is transformed.