

Dear Families,

Our class is beginning the Science Companion® Motion Unit. During this unit, children will explore a topic that is near and dear to them—motion! The Motion Unit offers an introduction to physics through activities that engage children’s bodies and minds. In addition to inviting children to move their own bodies in various ways, the explorations in this unit involve building ramps, rolling toy cars, dropping and crashing marbles, sliding pennies and shoes, and even flying paper airplanes. Children will love these activities—and doing them will lead the children to think about the familiar topic of motion in new and “scientific” ways.

During the Motion Unit, the children will:

- Figure out different ways to make a toy car start moving and a ball change direction. Through these and other activities, they discover that all changes in motion are caused by pushes or pulls, also called forces.
- Compare the effects of big forces and small forces (pushes and pulls) on the motion of toy cars.
- Experiment with collisions between marbles on ramps.
- Experience the force of friction as they slide coins, shoes, and themselves.
- Drop marbles and other objects to explore the effects of gravity, another important force.

In addition to the work your child will do in class, you and your child can explore this rich topic together at home in the following ways:

- Visit the library and search for books about motion to read together and share with the class. There are book suggestions on the Science Companion web site. This web site also features a list of recommended web sites about motion. The address is: **www.sciencecompanion.com**.
- Work together on the Family Link activities that are sent home from time to time. Your child may also want to repeat and vary some of the activities we do in class, as well as explain what they discovered and learned. Try to encourage their independent experimentation at home.

Thinking and learning about how and why objects move the way they do is fascinating for children and adults—especially since we don’t often take the time to think about these everyday occurrences. Hopefully, you will share some of your child’s enthusiasm—you may even learn some new things, too!

Sincerely,