

Dear Families,

Our class is beginning the Science Companion™ Sound Unit. The Sound Unit builds on the natural curiosity children have about the world around them and encourages them to investigate the sounds that permeate their lives.

During the Sound Unit, the children will:

- Act as “sound detectives” to heighten their awareness of the sounds all around them.
- Experiment with their lips, voices, rulers, rubber bands, metal pans, spoons, plastic bottles, and other common materials to discover that all sounds are produced by vibrations.
- Test how well sound transmits through a variety of materials.
- Enact sound vibrations traveling through the ear.
- Develop an “ear” for differences in pitch and volume and discover ways to vary the pitch and volume of sounds.
- Synthesize and apply the concepts they learn to design, build, refine, and demonstrate their own musical instruments.

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 sound 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 sound. The address is: **[www.sciencecompanion.com](http://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.

The combination of hands-on, multisensory learning, creative design, and music make the Sound Unit very engaging for children and adults. Hopefully, you will share some of your child’s enthusiasm, thereby learning with them while helping them explore.

Sincerely,