

Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our next unit of study, “Exploring Sound, Light, and Heat.”

Congratulations to your child! We’ve reached the tenth and final unit in the Benchmark Advance program. 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, your child will read about these two types of energy and analyze how they affect everyday life. For example, they’ll discover that rainbows are formed from the sun’s light and raindrops. The selections include a variety of genres, from informational and procedural texts to poetry and narrative fiction. The topics of sound and light will spark brilliant discussions with your child.

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

Exploring Sound, Light, and Heat

In this final unit, we'll read about sound and light as we think in depth about the question "How would our lives be different without sound and light?" Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation about sound and light, building on skills and concepts your child has learned in school.

Topic Connection

Sounds Around Town

Go for a walk with your child around your community and take note of the many different sounds you hear around you, such as honking cars, children laughing in a park, wind rustling the trees, background music in a store, and more! Encourage your child to keep a list of sounds. When you return home, discuss which sounds you liked and which you didn't like and why.

Vocabulary Connection

What Word?

In school, your child is learning words related to sound and light. Some of these words include **neigh, shriek, shadow, clear, tapping, cheer, mirror, shiny, clear, solid, rain**. Write these words on scraps of paper and fold them up. Take turns choosing a word. The player is to first identify the words as being related to sound or light, and explain why. Then, use the word in a sentence.

Comprehension Connection

Compare and Contrast

One of the selections we'll be reading contrasts day and night. Another selection compares the different ways matter can change when exposed to heat. Comparing and contrasting is a key reading skill. Practice with your child by brainstorming two people, pets, places, or events and comparing and contrasting them. For example, you might compare and contrast a cat and a dog or two books.

Phonics Connections

Walk and Talk

In our phonics instruction, your child is reading words that have /ô/ sound, as in **saw, walk, tall,** and **caught**. Go for a walk around your house or in your community and look or listen for words that make the /ô/. Say the word aloud when you see or hear it. You can also look through books, newspapers, magazines, and other texts for examples of the /ô/ sound.