Dear Families:

This week, we walked around the neighborhood, observing and discussing the nests that we saw in the trees. We also collected materials that we thought we might need to make our own nests back in the classroom.

We followed up by reading the book, ***Mama Built a Little Nest***, by Jennifer Ward. Then the children used their engineering skills to create nests from loose parts to hold their plastic eggs.

We discovered that building a bird nest can be hard! The children discovered that nests made of dry materials like sticks or grass didn't hold together very well. After discussing the problem, they realized that they could make their nests much sturdier by using a binding material like clay to hold the loose pieces together.

As children engage in hands-on investigations like these, they gain knowledge that enhances their understanding of the world through a process known as **scientific inquiry**. Like real engineers, our students designed and built a complex structure. Engineers want to know how and why things work. This week we discovered that we could also be engineers!

Ask your child about this week’s nest-building experience—and keep an eye out for nests in trees and on buildings during your walks or drives around the neighborhood!