Dear Families:

This week, we have been observing footprints in the snow. We read the book, ***Big Tracks, Little Tracks: Following Animal Prints in the Snow***, by Millicent E. Selsam.

We discussed animals that are in our neighborhood and talked about where these different animals live during the winter months. The children shared their ideas based on observations that they had made outside and guessed where those animals might live.

Next, we looked at photographs of animal tracks in the snow and discussed where these animals might live. The children guessed and we made different categories of animal habitats such as trees or underground burrows or water or houses for pets.

We made a chart to record all of this information, and the children placed the animal photographs on the chart based on where the animals lived. Then we went outdoors to see if we could find any animal footprints. We were lucky enough to find squirrel, bird and dog footprints!

This is also a fun game to play with the boot prints left by children in the snow. One of the parents in our program has a boot that leaves a smiley face! Ask your child: “What kind of prints do your boots make in the snow?”

When you are walking outdoors with your child, see if you can spot different prints in the snow and guess who left them there. Discuss the size and location of the prints and where that animal might live.

Have fun observing different prints left in the snow!