Dear Families:

Today we went for a scavenger hunt in the neighborhood to practice observing and documenting what we find in nature. The children practiced their observational skills as they looked for butterflies, spiderwebs, worms and other bits of nature hiding outside. These observational skills will be important for future early scientific explorations and investigations. Searching for objects in nature helps build vocabulary and awareness of the natural world.

Scavenger hunts also help build problem-solving skills. Every quest requires them to think, seek and find. These are great skills for any growing mind, especially for those little ones who always seem to be on the hunt for something!

As children use their bodies to walk, run, skip and move while hunting for life forms and objects in nature, they are getting an all-around mind-body workout!

You can help build your child’s observational skills at home. Ask your child to guess objects that you can see. Provide clues to help your child identify the colors, shapes or sounds of certain natural materials in your neighborhood. This could be done while taking a walk or playing in the park—or even while traveling on a bus, on a train or in the car.

Have fun observing and exploring your neighborhood!