



Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *How Does Energy Move from One Object to Another?* The unit leads up to a science challenge. Your child will figure out why when two croquet balls are resting against each other, and one ball is hit while held in place, the other ball moves. Your child's at-home and out-of-school experiences can play an essential role in supporting the development of their own and their classmates' understanding of how the world works. As I work on planning the lessons, I would appreciate some ideas about how your child may have already experienced our new topic. Your feedback will help me incorporate their experiences into the unit.

If you can, please respond to as many of the following questions as you are comfortable answering. Rest assured that your child does not have to have relevant previous experiences to be successful with the unit.

1. Does your child play with diecast cars or play by crashing toy cars into one another?
2. Does your child have an interest in space exploration and spacecrafts returning astronauts to Earth?
3. Is your child familiar with the game of croquet or other games that use a mallet to hit a ball?

In addition to sharing your child's experiences with me, I encourage you to discuss topics related to this science unit with your child. This can help them make sense of what they are doing in school. Here are some examples of questions to ask at home:

1. Did you watch a video of two different collisions between moving and stationary toy cars? Why do you think the stationary car moved farther in one of the collisions?
2. Are you trying to figure out how a spacecraft slowed down on its way back to Earth? Did you notice anything interesting about the spacecraft?
3. Are you designing a model space capsule? Tell me about your design. Why did you design it like that?

You can learn more about this science unit at ScienceEducation.si.edu/collisions-phenomenon. Please feel free to ask me questions. I want to work with you to make sure your child gets the most out of this unit.

Thank you.