



Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *How Can Animals Use Their Senses to Communicate?* The unit leads up to a science challenge. Your child will figure out why fireflies flash in different patterns. 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 have any experience playing with cats?
2. Does your child have any foods that they don't eat because of past negative experiences with those foods? What was the negative experience?
3. Has your child been in a forest?

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 a cat hunting and catching a mouse in the grass? How do you think it found the mouse?
2. Did you watch a video of fiddler crabs waving their big claw? Why do you think they do that?
3. Did you watch a video of fireflies flashing? Why do you think they do that?

You can learn more about this science unit at ScienceEducation.si.edu/communication-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.