



Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *How Can We Stay Cool in the Sun?* The unit leads up to a design challenge. Your child will solve the problem of a person getting warm when they are out in sunlight. 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 the following questions and prompts. Please respond only to questions you are comfortable with. Rest assured that your child does not have to have relevant previous experiences to be successful with the unit.

1. Does your child know any engineers? List any books your child reads or shows/movies your child watches that include engineers.
2. Share a story about a hat that someone in the family wears, preferably a hat worn in the sun. Share a picture of the hat, if possible.

In addition to sharing your child's experiences with me, I encourage you to discuss topics related to the 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. I hear you saw a video about a playground that was too hot to play on. Why did the playground get hot? How did you figure that out?
2. Are you designing a solution for the hot playground problem? Tell me about your design. Why did you design it like that?

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