



Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *How Can We Identify Materials Based on Their Properties?* The unit leads up to a science challenge where your child will figure out how to identify the ingredients of a bath bomb based on their properties. 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. Which of these household solids is your child familiar with: sugar, salt, cornstarch, baking soda, baking powder, alum? What are your child's experiences with these solids? What situations have they seen them used in?
2. What experiences does your child have with dissolving sugar or salt in water? Have they ever made a sugar solution for a hummingbird feeder? Have they added sugar to tea or coffee? Have they made rock candy?
3. What experiences does your child have with balloons and the properties of gases?

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. Are you drawing a flow chart to identify kitchen ingredients? Tell me about your flow chart. How is it going to help you identify the ingredients?
2. Did you mix baking soda and vinegar to make a balloon inflate? What do you think was going on in the baking soda and vinegar mixture that made the balloon inflate?

You can learn more about this science unit at Science.Education.si.edu/properties-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.