Smithsonian | SCIENCE *for the classroom*

Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *How Can We Change an Object's Motion?* The unit leads up to a science challenge. Your child will figure out what caused a golf ball to change direction inside a miniature golf feature. 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 questionsas you are comfortable answering. Rest assured that your child does not have to have relevant previous experiences to be successful with the unit.

1. Is your child familiar with the game of air hockey or any other games that involve hitting an object into a goal?
2. Is your child familiar with golf, miniature golf, or any other games where a ball is hit with a club or a mallet?

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 an air hockey puck moving into a goal? What do you think happened to the puck before it went into the goal?
2. Are you designing your own tabletop hockey game? Tell me about your design. Why did you design it like that?

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