



Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *How Do Living Things Stay Safe and Grow?* The unit leads up to a science challenge. Your child will figure out where a pair of lost penguins belong and how they can mimic the natural world to observe them. 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. Is your child familiar with the ways different types of animals look similar and different?
2. Is your child familiar with planting a garden or farming?

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 about two penguins that look alike but also different? Why do you think the two types of penguins look alike but different?
2. Are you designing solutions to problems scientists deal with when they work in the field? What types of plant and animal parts inspired your design?

You can learn more about this science unit at [ScienceEducation.si.edu/survival-phenomenon](https://ScienceEducation.si.edu/survival-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.