



Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *What Do Plants and Animals Need to Live?* The unit leads up to a science challenge. Your child will figure out how to build a play area while reducing the impact on the organisms living there. 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 plants and the things they need to live and grow?
2. Does your family care for plants and/or pets at home?
3. Has your child had direct experience in nature and with insects?

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 look at some sick-looking plants? What do you think happened to make the plants look unhealthy?
2. Are you taking care of caterpillars? Tell me about what you think they need. Why do you think that?

You can learn more about this science unit at [Science Education.si.edu/whatsinhome](https://ScienceEducation.si.edu/whatsinhome). 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.