



Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *How Can We Light Our Way in the Dark?* The unit leads up to a science challenge. Your child will figure out how two materials behave in well-lit and darkened conditions. They will explain how such materials can be used to send a signal to tell people what to do in an emergency situation. 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. Do members of your household have favorite places to hide or to hide objects in hide-and-seek or treasure hunt games? What makes these good hiding places?
2. Can you share a story about a member of your household or community who does engineering work or solves problems in your home or community, like a leaky roof or a broken piece of playground equipment?

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. I hear you are investigating what happens when light shines on different objects. Would you explain what would happen if I shined a flashlight at the different things on the table during dinner?
2. What are the different types of materials you have investigated? Tell me how you could use them to help us find the front door if our power went out. Why do you think your idea will work?

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