



Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *How Can We Send a Message Using Sound?* The unit leads up to a design challenge. Your child will design a sound-making device that they can use to tell a player which direction to move in a board game. They will explain how they planned their design to make two different sounds. 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. In what different ways do members of your household communicate with friends who are close by and far away? Examples might include phone calls or postcards.
2. What musical instruments, if any, do members of your household or friends play? Please share a story about how the instrument contributes to group activities. Are you willing to lend an instrument to the class for students to observe and possibly handle as they learn about what makes sound happen?

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 if different objects can make sound. Can you find some similar objects here and show me how you would test them?
2. What problems do we have that are similar to the problems you are solving in class? How do you think we could make a device to solve our problem?

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