Dear Families,

 We’ve noticed that children get excited about playing with toy cars and trucks, and they spend time at school building roads out of blocks, putting together train tracks, and driving vehicles around the playground. In their play at school, children have created roads to connect people and buildings. Children have become curious about the different types of roads they see, where roads go, how roads are made, how roads connect us, and the kinds of jobs that involve building or repairing roads. We think a study of roads will be a great opportunity for children to explore their interests.

We need your help to get our study going. If you can, we’d love your help in gathering materials related to roads. We’ll need a variety of materials for the children to explore. If you have pictures related to roads being built or repaired, we’d love to borrow those. Below in a list of suggested items but feel free to send other items that you think may add to our exploration. Please label items with your name some we can return them to you at the end of the study. We promise to take good care of them! Also, please let us know if someone in your family works in a job related to roads, (e.g., delivery person, taxi or truck driver, or any job related to building or repairing roads) and would like to share his or her expertise with the class. We would love to arrange a time for you to join us in our investigations.

PICTURES:

Traffic signs

Cars, trucks, diggers, front loaders, trains.

Gravel or Sand

Rakes

Shovels

Hard Hats

Reflective Vests

Gloves

Boots

Traffic Flag or Batons

Road Maps

Interesting roads, bridges, tunnels.

Roads made of different materials.

Roads near your home and in your community.

Reflective Vests

Talk with your child about the different kinds of roads in your area; local roads, highways, dirt roads, toll roads, alleys. If possible, examine a road or parking lot new your home. What is it made of? What features does it have? Point out interesting features such as traffic lights, signs, gutters, steel plates, crosswalks, ramps and overpasses. Notice the kids of vehicles that travel on roads and ask children where they are going or what the vehicles might be carrying. Talk about the jobs of people who build, repair, or work on roads. What equipment do they use? What supplies do you need to make a road?