



# **Introducing Families to the Project Approach**

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# What is a project?

- ➔ Extended, firsthand, in-depth investigation of a topic
- ➔ Young children conducting child-initiated research
- ➔ Investigation of phenomena and events worth learning about in their own environments



# When do children do projects?

- ➔ A project is not the whole curriculum.
- ➔ Projects are incorporated into the curriculum
  - Circle time
  - Choice time
  - Field trips



# What will I see my child do?

- ➔ Working cooperatively in small groups
- ➔ Applying academic skills (measuring, counting, reading, writing)
- ➔ Applying intellectual skills (analyzing, hypothesizing, synthesizing)
- ➔ Drawing from observation



# What kinds of things will my child study?

- ➔ Successful topics come from everyday objects and experiences
- ➔ Examples
  - Shoes
  - Mail
  - Cars
  - Rain
  - Trees



# How can I help?

- ➔ Talk with your child about the project.
- ➔ Read documentation about the project.
- ➔ Contribute materials related to the topic.
- ➔ Volunteer as a guest expert.
- ➔ Volunteer your time to assist in the classroom and on field trips.